Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-226
Friday
23 November 1990

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FBIS-NES-90-226 *23 November 1990*

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Sends Memos to UN on Sharon Remarks

LD2111183990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The PLO has sent two official memorandums to the UN secretary general, Perez de Cuellar, on recent developments in the occupied territories. In a statement made today, Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, said that the two memorandums concerned the announcement made by the head of the Israeli government, Yitzhaq Shamir, in which he said that the territories situated between the Mediterranean and the River Jordan were regarded as part of greater Israel, and Israeli Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon's decision to build 17,000 housing units in East Jerusalem. He added that Shamir's announcement and Sharon's decision were in violation of the UN resolution, international cooperation, and the Geneva accord.

'Arafat Sends Messages on 'Zionist Schemes'

LD2211172190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Following the recent statements by the prime minister of the Zionist entity, the president of the state of Palestine, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, today addressed urgent messages to the leaders of the Arab countries, calling on them to adopt the necessary measures to confront the Zionist Schemes in the occupied Arab territories.

In his messages the Palestinian leader stressed the gravity of the threats against the occupied Arab territories as a result of the Zionist policy plotting the Judaization of these territories in order to retain them forever.

He also directed the attention of the leaders to the dangers for the Arab countries imposed by the Israeli prime minister's recent statements about what the Zionists call the greater Israel project.

PLO Issues Statement on Shamir Remarks, Gulf

JN2211194590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Nov 90

["Text" of statement issued by PLO Executive Committee "last night" at the conclusion of "meetings chaired by brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]"; place not given]

[Text] Statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee: Yitzhaq Shamir and a number of his government's ministers have made some statements over the past days that confirm that they cling to the occupation and annexation of Arab and Palestinian lands as part of the lands of greater Israel to transform them into a lebensraum to absorb the waves of new Soviet Jewish immigrants and to commit aggression against the Islamic and Christian sanctities in Jerusalem and Palestine.

These statements reflect the dangerous Zionist schemes; mainly, the scheme of official annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories and entrenchment of wide-ranging settlement, especially inside and around Holy Jerusalem, in an unprecedented manner. The last action in this regard was Sharon's decision to set up 15,000 housing units in occupied Jerusalem as part of a plan to Judaize Holy Jerusalem, the place to which the Prophet Muhammad traveled and the cradle of Christ—on whom be God's peace and blessings.

These public positions and expansionist annexation measures, and the attack on the sanctities, are linked with the continuation and stepping up of various forms of suppression, terrorism, and daily killing of our Palestinian people—men, women, and children; the decisions to deny thousands of workers the right to live and work; and the arming of the settler gangs and officially allowing them to use their weapons against the sons of our unarmed people. In fact, these Zionist schemes bear out the qualitative danger that affects the situation inside the lands of the state of Palestine and demonstrates that Israeli schemes have attained the highest levels of challenge and pursuit of their criminal and expansionist objectives.

These serious developments can no longer afford formal measures of the type that the United States is seeking to impose on the UN Security Council [UNSC] to soak up anger and cover Israeli crimes and occupation. In fact, these developments require that the UNSC take urgent and mandatory measures to halt settlement and expansion, to foil the policy of annexation and appendage, and to ensure international protection for our people in the lands of the occupied state of Palestine through UN-sponsored international forces, as a prelude to the Palestinian people's exercise of their right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The U.S. Administration, through its concrete statements and practices, including the use of the veto to cover Israeli crimes and policy, is providing full cover for the expansionism of the Shamir government, its crimes, and its occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands. The United States is fully responsible for obstructing and stonewalling international legitimacy and weighing matters according to double standards, in connection with resolutions and principles, when the point at issue relates to Israel and its crimes, its aggression and its occupation of our territories, at a time when the United States claims concern for implementing this international legitimacy in the Gulf crisis in order to starve the Iraqi people.

The credibility and prestige of the United Nations and the UNSC, as well as those of the new world order, are being put to the test on a daily basis. The flagrant and glaring defiance of all UNSC resolutions on the Palestine question and the Middle East conflict has become unmistakably clear. The PLO urges all world forces eager to see international legitimacy heeded to halt this U.S. obstruction of the UNSC's role, which is being conducted through collusion with

Shamir's government, and to deal in a balanced and thorough manner with all regional problems and issues to prevent the all-out conflagration that has become imminent and has begun to threaten the security of the region and that of the whole world. The PLO urges all the states and parties concerned to immediately reconsider their views on Jewish immigration, especially Soviet Jewish immigration, which undermines our people's rights as well as their national soil, and constitutes a flagrant violation of all international and universal rules, norms, and resolutions.

Similarly, the PLO stresses the importance of mobilizing all the Arab nation's resources against this fateful danger that threatens it. The PLO also stresses the importance of expediting efforts to reach a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis which should have an international cover to safeguard the rights and interests of all. In like manner, the PLO underscores the importance of rejecting the calls for a destructive war for which the U.S. Administration is massing troops and making preparations.

Our Palestinian people will continue their struggle, displaying a relentless resolve to confront the strategic threat facing them at this time. Furthermore, they appeal to all Arab and friendly peoples and forces to break the silence that Washington and Tel Aviv are attempting to impose on the crimes being perpetrated inside our occupied territories, and also on the annexationist and liquidationist schemes being planned. The call for securing international protection for our lands and people today constitutes the main step through which the schemes of Shamir's government can be curbed and an all-out regional conflagration can be prevented. Hence, the PLO addresses the masses of our Arab nation and the nation's leaders, stressing the need to make concerted efforts to confront these impending dangers facing our nation, its future, its pan-Arab security, and its existence. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee

Commentary Urges Coexistence, Broad View of Crisis

JN2111223890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Commentary by the WAFA-PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY political editor]

[Excerpts] Had Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] stated that the PLO wanted a Palestinian state from the river to the sea, he would have been faced by a tumultuous world uproar and the United States would have accused us of wanting to throw the Jews into the sea, would have instigated the European nations against us, would have labeled us terrorists, and would have called on the permanent and nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council to besiege us, shed our blood, and declare us a threat to world peace and the security of states and peoples everywhere. It was Shamir, however, who made the statement and made it unambiguously clear, with no chance of misinterpretation, that Israel should be prepared with all its potential to absorb the Soviet immigrants in its land, which extends from the sea to the river. Therefore, no one in the United States or the West moved to denounce, protest, or even merely direct blame to dismiss the thought of a possible collusion against international legitimacy which recognizes the Palestinians' right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

We are not saying this to score verbal points, but because the topic takes us back to the core of the issue, the features of which have begun to crystallize in the general consciousness of world opinion, especially in Europe, following the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, which threatens a comprehensive destructive war. This issue must be dealt with and tackled in a manner free of compulsive reaction or the narrow vision demonstrated a few days ago by the U.S. President and his secretary of state. The Gulf crisis is not an American unemployment issue or a U.S. and European recession. Above all, the issue is part of the Palestine question, the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories, the deficient distribution of wealth, and the policy of imposing poverty and starvation launched by the United States and the West against the people of this region, which contains the gears that move the engine of the world's wealth and economy.

An agreement on world peace and detente must take into consideration the regional problems of people and states that have had enough of suffering, repression, and injustice. These people and states have been subjected to the ugliest plunder and monopoly and, above all, occupation, headed by the Zionist occupation which declares its racist identity every day. [passage omitted]

We do not know whether the defenders of the new world order or those concerned about world accord and reconciliation have in the least thought that such an accord and reconciliation require curbing the contentious Israelis. This is because accord has no room for the image of Israeli soldiers armed to the teeth, carrying live ammunition and toxic gases, and chasing Palestinian children in the streets and alleys of Jerusalem, Gaza, Nabulus, and Palestinian camps. Such an image suits the primitives and barbarians. Besides, it reflects a defunct racism. Similarly, the matter requires coexistence in our holy land. The cornerstone of this coexistence is terminating the occupation and compelling Israel to yield to international legitimacy and UN resolutions as part of and based on an accord in the region, to which the Arabs should be the first and main party. This is one the most basic rights and foremost duties in light of which everything should be arranged, including the flow of wealth on just bases and within the framework of mutual respect. [passage omitted]

South Asian Regional Affairs

Reportage Continues on Fifth SAARC Summit

Summit Opens; Gayoom Speaks

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[Editorial Report] Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English begins live coverage of the opening

ceremony of the fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, from the Maldivian capital, Male, at 1045 GMT.

At 1046 GMT an unidentified announcer reviews the achievements of SAARC and describes in brief the political developments in member-countries during the last year.

At 1100 GMT the TV shows the arrival of Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom to the venue of the summit. At 1107 GMT the TV shows the venue of the fifth SAARC summit where delegates from the SAARC member-countries, including Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, are seated. At 1115 GMT Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his wife, Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuk, Indian Prime Miniser Chandra Shekhar, Nepalese Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his wife are seen arriving at the summit and being received by the Maldivian president. At 1130 GMT the heads of state and government are seen arriving at the dais and occupying their seats.

At 1131 GMT the national anthem of the Maldives is played and a passage from the Koran is recited. At 1137 GMT Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, representing Pakistan, the outgoing chairman of the summit, presents a report reviewing SAARC's activities in the past one year and calls the president of the Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, to inaugurate the summit. At 1143 GMT Gayoom begins his inaugural speech.

Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom begins his inaugural speech.

Gayoom welcomes the leaders attending the summit and particularly appreciates Sri Lanka's gesture saying: "Here I wish to convey our deep gratitude to the Government of Sri Lanka for its fine gesture in accommodating our desire to hold the fifth summit in Male to coincide with the 25th anniversary year of our independence. We receive it as an act of friendship and good-neighborliness based on the noble objective of regional cooperation."

Continuing his speech, Gayoom suggests that "we utilize the opportunity of this summit to reaffirm our dedication to the principles of SAARC and to inject a new vigor to our endeavors so that we may regain the momentum of region[al cooperation generated by our earlier summits."

While expressing satisfaction over the way the SAARC countries are implementing socioeconomic development programs, Gayoom notes with concern their threats to stability and says that "dangers that threaten peace and stability are still present in our region." The president says: "The Maldives firmly believes that as a regional association we can jointly face this challenge, the challenge of putting an end to all outside intervention and interference and assuring that our countries do not become hotbeds of conflicts engineered from outside."

Referring to this "critical time in modern history when important and far-reaching changes are taking place in many parts of the world," President Gayoom welcomes these changes.

Welcoming the end of the cold war and the era of detente, President Gayoom, however, expresses concern over the Gulf crisis. He says "the crisis in the Gulf has emerged as an extremely serious threat to world peace. To avoid further escalation of tension and devastating military confrontation in the Gulf and safeguard peace and security in the region, it is vital that a peaceful solution based on the Security Council resolution and the Arab League decisions should be found." He then refers to an appeal by six Islamic nations of Asia to Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait.

Continuing his speech, President Gayoom notes another type of external threat. He says: "On the other hand, the events of recent years have brought home to us more than ever before the special vulnerability of small states to external threats, including terrorism and mercenary attacks. The armed aggression against the Maldives in 1988 is a clear example of the alarming heights the twin threat of international terrorism and mercenarism have now reached." He then suggests that SAARC members who have not yet adopted the SAARC convention on suppression of terrorism do so without further delay.

On the economic front, the president says the "prospects remain grim for developing countries."

Reviewing SAARC's achievements since its formation, President Gayoom suggests that what is necessary now is to devise policies and practical measures to deal with persistent problems common to the region. The president then stresses the need to take steps for the welfare of children in keeping with the endeavor initiated by the World Conference on Children. He then suggests declaring the 1990's the SAARC decade for the girl child.

Turning to the environmental problem, the president regrets that not many steps have been taken in this direction. President Gayoom concludes his 20-minute speech at 1203 GMT.

Following his speech, President Gayoom invites Sri Lankan Prime Minister Wijetunge to propose a vote of thanks. Wijetunge in his speech beginning at 1204 GMT stresses the need for unity and solidarity of the SAARC and expresses confidence in the SAARC leadership of President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

Sharif Addresses Summit

BK2211134890 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 90 pp 1, 10

[From Shahid Saleem, NATIONAL PRESS TRUST diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Male (Maldives), Nov. 21—Making his debut at an international conference on opening of fifth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]

summit here on Wednesday evening Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed for ending of differences and resolution of disputes between member states on basis of justice and equity.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who earlier presided over the first part of the inaugural session of the summit, as its chairman, while addressing the conference declared that no peace could be achieved in the region unless disputes were settled.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif did not mention dispsutes, specifically among member countries, like Kashmir. It was clearly understood at the summit by attending delegates that he was clearly referring to India-Pakistan dispute of Jammu and Kashmir and Sri Lankan and Nepalese disputes with India, which certainly need immediate attention in the wake of prevailing regional and international situation.

Mian Nawaz Sharif said that in the new international ambience of detente and peace, SAARC member states cannot afford mutual tensions, military confrontations and high defence budgets. We need to cut down the exorted, non-productive expenditures and direct out energies exclusively to improving the quality of life of our people.

Premier Nawaz Sharif said that SAARC cannot achieve its full potential unless the disputes and differences between member states were resolved peacefully on the basis of justice and equity. It was therefore necessary, he said, that we should eliminate the root causes of suspicion and tension in our region. We also believe that the time has come to move forward to a stage where SAARC provides tangible benefits to our people. If this does not happen soon, cynicism may set in and our organisation may lose its credibility and momentum, Nawaz Sharif warned.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said the SAARC member states have a vital stake in the global endeavours towards disarmament. Further progress in this field will promote international peace and security and is bound to release resources for developmental purposes. We earnestly hope that the superpowers dialogue will result in substantial reductions in their nuclear arsenals leading finally to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Pakistan's Prime Minister said SAARC member states can contribute to this process by jointly renouncing nuclear weapons through a binding agreement. Concrete measures in this regard would be a regional agreement totally banning nuclear explosions. Such agreements should not be difficult to achieve since all our countries have already declared their opposition to the acquistion of nuclear weapons, the Prime Minister added.

Following is the full text of the speech of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif as the leader of Pakistan delegation, at the 5th SAARC Summit at male Wednesday evening.

I deem it a great privilege indeed to represent Pakistan at the Fifth SAARC Summit. It is a source of added pleasure that our Summit coincides with the celebration of the silver jubilee of the independence of the fraternal state of the Maldives. I bring with me the congratulations and good wishes of the people of Pakistan for our Maldivian brothers and sisters on this auspicious occasion. We share their hopes and aspirations for a better future and for closer cooperation in our region.

The Maldives is most fortunate to be led by a statesman of your ability and experience. We are confident that under inspiring and sagacious leadership, the people of the Maldives will continue their march towards ever greater progress and prosperity. In this noble endeavour, the best wishes and prayers of the Government and people of Pakistan will always be with you

Your inaugural address Maldivian President was remarkable for its clarity of vision as also for its breadth of thought. It will be a valuable source of guidance in our deliberations.

Pakistan has had the signal honour of being chairman of SAARC for almost two years. We are grateful that during this period we received the full support and cooperation from all the member states of SAARC for the promotion of our common objectives. I would like to felicitate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of SAARC and assure you of Pakistan's firm and unwavering support as you set out to preside over the future course and direction of our association.

I would like to express my special pleasure at the participation in our deliberations, for the first time, of His Excellency Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar of India, His Excellency Prime Minister Bhattarai of Nepal and His Excellency Prime Minister Wijetunga of Sri Lanka. I would also like to place on record our appreciation for the important contributions to SAARC made by His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, His Excellency Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and His Excellency Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

The world is living in an era of momentous change. Dangerous tensions that had prevailed in many regions since the Second World War are fast disappearing. The cold war appears to be a relic of the past Europe is animated by a new spirit for unity and collaboration. The superpowers are engaged in elaborating ever new forms of cooperation. Equally; remarkable progress has been registered in the field of arms conirol. Unprecedented confidence and collaboration have become the hallmark of relations between erstwhile rival blocs. The winds of democracy and self-determination are sweeping the globe.

It is regrettable that some parts of the world have not benefitted from the positive changes taking place across the international scene. It is particularly regrettable that the new wave of conciliation and accommodation has not as yet pervaded the South Asian region. Just and honourable solutions have yet to be found to the disputes

and differences amongst us. Solemn and binding agreements still await implementation. The political and security environment in our region remains far from reassuring.

At the same time we face under-development in all its manifestations a rapidly growing population an inadequate infrastructure, poor health cover and a low literacy rate. Pakistan is convinced that in the new international ambience of detente and peace, SAARC member states cannot afford mutual tensions, military confrontations and high defence budgets. We need to cut down non-productive expenditures and direct our energies exclusively to improving the quality of life of our peoples.

We believe that SAARC cannot achieve its full potential unless the disputes and differences between member states are resolved peacefully on the basis of justice and equity. It is therefore necessary that we should harness the requisite political will to eliminate the root causes of suspicion and tension in our region. We also believe that the time has come to move forward to a stage where SAARC provides tangible benefits to our people. If this does not happen soon, cynicism may set in and our organisation may lose its credibility and momentum.

The SAARC member states have a vital stake in the global endeavours towards disarmament. Further progress in this field, will promote international peace and security, and is bound to release resources for developmental purposes. We earnestly hope that the superpower dialogue will result in substantial reductions in their nuclear arsenals leading finally to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The global disarmament process, which has been slow and partial, must be supplemented by efforts at regional levels. SAARC member states can contribute to this process by jointly renouncing nuclear weapons through a binding agreement. Concrete measure in this regard would be a regional agreement totally anning nucelar explosions.

Such agreements should not be difficult to achieve since all our countries have already declared their opposition to the acquisition of nuclear weapons.

At the Bangalore SAARC Summit the member-states had agreed to consult and cooperate with each other on international economic issues with a view to promoting common interests. This requirement remain as valid today as it was in 1986. The existing inequitable international economic system continues to widen the gap between the rich and the poor countries. The negative financial flows the tariff and non-tariff barriers erected by the industrialised countries against the developing nations, the serious external debt problem faced by the Third World, the high interest rates and, lately, the soaring oil prices continue to debilitate the economies of the developing nations. The so-called North-South dialogue aimed at creating a more equitable and just international economic order has, so far produced no results.

In the ultimate analysis, the countries of South Asia would have to depend on their own resources and skills. In this context South- South collaborations and especially regional cooperation assume immense importance to overcome our common economic problems.

Last year, at the 44th session of the UN General Assembly, Pakistan had co-sponsored the Maldivian resolution on "The Protection and Security of Small States". This resolution which received unanimous support had noted the particular vulnerability of small states to external threats and acts of interference. We believe that the commitment to the protection and security of small states, can be ensured in a more effective manner if its is translated into a regionally binding agreement.

The deadly menance which narcotic drugs pose to our societies has been focussed upon exclusively in a number of SAARC meetings. The year 1989 was in fact observed as the SAARC Year for Combatting Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse. In order to combat the drug problem more effectively, a separate Narcotics Control Ministry has been established in Pakistan. We are happy to note that a Regional Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is in the process of being finalised. This convention will greatly strengthen our hands to eliminate the scourge of drug abuse and drug trafficking from our region.

The children of today are citizens of tomorrow. During previous summits, we have emphasised the need for making adequate investment in their future. Pakistan had the honour of being one of the six initiators for the World Summit for Children at the United Nations in September this year. We believe that his summit has provided a new impetus to our efforts, and some of its recommendations can be usefully incorporated in SAARC programmes.

Women constitute half the population of our countries. They are unfortunately victims of neglect and various prejudices. The decision at the Islamabad Summit to declare 1990 [as published] as the "SAARC Year of the Girl Child", therefore was a constructive step for improving this situation. Member-states have arranged a number of events and programmes for educating our peopies on this issue. The second ministerial meeting on Women in Development, at Islamabad earlier this year adopted a number of practical recommendations. Their implementation would have a salutary impact on the life of women in our region.

We are pleased that the decision, taken at the Islamabad Summit to exempt Supreme Court judges and members of the national parliaments from visa requirements for travel within the region, is expected to be mandated at this summit. Thereafter, the expansion of categories of persons who could benefit from this exemption could be considered.

There are nearly 100 million persons suffering from disabilities of various order in South Asia. It is important that our efforts to secure a better life for our peoples do not ignore these disabled persons. Rather than being a burden for society, they should be brought into the

mainstream of national life as useful citizens. Though every member-state is engaged in efforts to improve the conditions of its disabled population, their cause merits a special regional effort being made for their welfare. I would, therefore propose that the year 1993 be declared as the "SAARC Year of Disabled Persons." During that year, we could initiate activities of a collective nature to inculcate a greater awareness about the problems of the disabled, focus public attention on measures being taken to render effective assistance to them and secure adequate human and material resources for their benefit in the SAARC region.

Earlier, in his opening speech as chairman of the SAARC summit Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Wednesday called for increased cooperation among the SAARC nations to achieve the goals set out for themselves.

He said in the present day world, inter-state cooperation is not a matter of choice but a necessity.

He said it was his hope that fifth SAARC meeting will produce constructive results for the advantage of our peoples and for the furtherance of peace and security in our region.

He said the difficulties that we experienced last year are a matter of the past and we can look forward to ever-increasing cooperation within our association.

"Our gathering manifests our consistent commitment to the SAARC", he added.

He said since the last meeting of the SAARC at Islamabad in December last the association has continued to make progress. "We have reason to be pleased that our endeavour in regional cooperation is steadily and surely progressing towards the goals we have set for ourselves," he remarked.

Degradation of environment is rightly a source of great concern at the global level. Owing to the constraint on their resources, developing countries are particularly vulnerable to this menace. At the Kathmandu Summit, SAARC member-states had initiated a regional study on the causes and consequences of natural disasters and the protection and preservation of the environment. The importance of this subject requires the earliest possible completion of this study.

The concept of "SAARC-2000—A Basic Perspective" launched at the Islamabad Summit, envisages long-term planning with targets being fixed for the year 2000 in the national development plans of member states. The purview of this undertaking would cover such basic requirements as food, shelter, education, primary health care, population planning and environmental protection. An attempt needs to be made to coordinate the various aspects of the national plans of member-states so as to put together the composite picture of the basic needs of our region until the year 2000 in the target areas.

The meetings of planners of SAARC countries serve as a forum for mooting new ideas and formulating useful proposals. The fifth meeting of planners had suggested that member-states consider harmonizing their policies in the spheres of health and population planning. The Government of Pakistan strongly supports this proposal.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to H.E. [His Excellency] Mr. Kant Kishore Bhargava, who is attending a SAARC Summit for the first time since his appointment as secretary general of our association. May I also express my appreciation for the dedicated efforts made by the first secretary general of SAARC, Mr Abdul Ahsan, during the formative years of the secretariat.

In conclusion, allow me to wish you every success in your new responsibilities and all your endeavours as the Chairman of SAARC. May I assure that you can count on Pakistan's unstinting support and whole-hearted cooperation in the fulfillment of your responsibilities".

Earlier the Prime Minister accompanied by Begum Nawaz Sharif flew into Male from Islamabad on a special PAF [Pakistan Air Force] Boeing 707.

Shekhar Addresses Summit

BK2211122990 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1318 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's address to the inaugural session of the fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation on 21 November in Male—live]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, your majesty, excellencies! I am grateful to our gracious hosts and particularly to our friend President Gayoom for the warm welcome and splendid hospitality extended to us. We are meeting here in Maldives—the abode of beauty and tranquility. I am sure the surroundings will have a soothing effect and the outcome of our common endeavor will be constructive and more purposeful.

I am grateful to you Mr. Chairman and to all other heads of state and government gathered here to the prompt response to our request to postpone the summit by two days. This positive gesture indicates the spirit of cooperation that should prevail in our association.

We are meeting in the silver jubilee year of the independence of the Maldives. The Maldives has indeed made remarkable progress under the dynamic leadership of President Gayoom and it is with the sense of justifiable pride that its people are celebrating its anniversary. We are happy to join the friendly people of Maldives in their rejoicing and renew to them our sincere good wishes for their continued progress and prosperity.

SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] came into being despite the problems, large and small, which have existed between the member-countries. While these differences impose a certain discipline on our agenda, cooperation within the framework provided by SAARC should help create a new climate for

the resolution of these differences. Economic cooperation among the South Asian countries has its own logic and compulsions. The framework of the SAARC charter, therefore, displays foresight and wisdom in not making such cooperation contingent upon the solution of bilateral problems.

Mr. Chairman: I should like to emphasize that we are an area of poverty, squalor, and misery. If we fight amongst each other, if we have the politics of confrontation, we shall not be able to fight against poverty, misery, squalor of our people, show responsibilities to our people. It is not a mere formality that we are meeting here in order to change pleasantries, but we are concerned about the future of the people of this area, and this is our responsibility.

Mr. Chairman: May I make a personal appeal to you. Under your leadership as the chairman of the SAARC a new era should start. SAARC meetings should not be just exchanges of formalities, not a diplomatic formality, but we should address ourself to the problems of the people because mere diplomatic formalities are not going to bring a new hope, a new confidence, a new trust among the people of this area. This is your responsibility, Mr. Chairman, and I assure you on behalf of India and Indian people and its government that we shall extend all cooperation to you in this great endeavor if the formalities are changed into real purpose for understanding the problems of people and trying to solve them. [applause].

The SAARC member-countries are the poorest in the world. Almost 46 percent of the world's poor are located in South Asia. South Asian exports contribute 0.8 percent to the world total; foreign exchange reserves of South Asian countries amount to 0.7 percent of global reserves. Most countries in the region have continuing trade and current account deficits and rising external debt and debt servicing burdens. Our people have to contend with common basic needs, removal of illiteracy, eradication of disease and ensuring the survival and healthy development of children. At the same time the SAARC countries share formidable assets—a population of over 1 billion, the largest pool of skilled manpower resources in the world, good infrastructure and abundant natural resources. There is, thus, a sound basis for economic cooperation among the SAARC member-countries.

Mr. Chairman, the biggest asset of mankind is the manpower. We are in abundance in manpower. Nature has bestowed everything upon us. And your country, Mr. Chairman, is a living example. Nature has given fertile land, all the mineral resources, beautiful climate. Why shouldn't we try to exploit the nature in the service of the man. And that can be done by getting the willing cooperation of our people, the toiling masses, the workers, in the field and farm. And for that you have to give a new lead through this organization, to give a new confidence, a new hope to the toiling masses that their labor will bring a new life to their children, a joy to their faces, and that it will not be exploited for the chosen few, whether in their own countries or outside the frontiers of their countries. [applause]

Mr. Chairman: Remarkable changes are taking place in the world. Competition for resources is increasing. Even the developed countries in order to maintain their technological lead and competitive edge are moving toward greater integration. A more unified European Community, the U.S.-Canada common market agreement, the desire of East European countries to join the West European economic mainstream, and the constitution of [word indistinct] are all pointers in this direction. This provides both a lesson and a challenge to us, since increasing regional integration elsewhere will make it even more difficult for us to compete in the markets of developed countries and against their products in other markets. Thus the contemporary world itself demands intensified economic cooperation among the South Asian countries.

Mr. Chairman: I don't want to say that we are competing with them in a spirit of jealousy or envy. But these are the hard realities of life. These regional imbalances, whether in the frontier of a country or in the world, are going to create problems for the whole world. If these regional balances [as heard] continue, there can't be an enduring peace. There cannot be an understanding among the various nations of the world. This area in which you and I have the honor to live is the area of thousands of years of civilization and culture. And we have given to the world a message of peace, of brotherhood, of nonviolence. Why should note even in future we aspire to give a new idea to the world that only in amity, only in tranquility [and] peace we can prosper and humanity can have a better future.

Mr. Chairman, the nature of cooperation among the SAARC countries that exists today is modest and limited. Through our ongoing activities, we have certainly benefited from each other's experience and have become aware of each other's needs and potentials. Some of the spectacular events organized have indeed helped in projecting the SAARC personality. However, there seems to be no direct impact of SAARC activities on the lives of the people of our countries. The low level of day-to-day interaction between our peoples persists. Indeed, in some areas it seems to be regressing. From 1980-87, intra-SAARC exports and imports as a percent of SAARC global trade fell from 4.94 percent to 2.98 percent and from 2.29 percent to 1.39 percent respectively. Our limited technical and infrastuctural cooperation has not made a dent in meeting the day-to-day needs and aspirations of our people. We are still faced with the anomalous situation. The freight rate between Calcutta and Khulna or between Karachi and Bombay are higher than the rate between Calcutta and Singapore or between Karachi and Hong Kong. May I know, Mr. Chairman, why can't we correct it? May I request the president of Bangladesh and the prime minister of Pakistan. [as heard] These are the areas where we can do something [passage indistinct].

Just now, his excellency, the president of Bangladesh, was telling me that most of the time SAARC meetings and summits are just mere formalities. Why should we not try to take up the issues that are agitating the mind of the people in this area and try to find some solution. May I request you, Mr. Chairman, as the chairman, as the leader of the SAARC for the coming year, you should introduce a new method of function, a new modality in dealing with the problems of this area and also organizing these summits. [applause] Mr. Chairman: A genuine impact can only be made if we cooperate in the area of production of goods and services and their exchange which really means cooperation in trade, industry, energy, money, and finance. This has been the fundamental basics of regional economic cooperation all over the world. Only those regional groupings have succeeded which have incorporated these areas of cooperation as an integral part of their activity and made progress in them.

It was understandable that in the beginning our emphasis was to undertake those activities that were designed to create confidence. But a stage has now come to launch SAARC on a more ambitious path of economic cooperation. These would open new and dynamic opportunity. Should we not do so, we may be failing in our duty to set the pace for a more rapid socioeconomic transformation in this region. Cooperation among countries of the region should be forged in a manner that serves the best interests of all countries involved. The precise way in which we achieve this will be a test of our organizational capacity.

We are living in a time of rapid technological changes. It is appropriate that SAARC should explore new areas of cooperation in high technology. With the onset of the biotechnology revolution, genetic resources are becoming high premium, crucial developmental resources. Access to genetic resources is essential for agricultural research and plant breeding programs. They are thus vital for the long term food security of developed countries. These resources are also extremely important for medicinal purposes. Unfortunately, the genetic resources available in developing countries, including the South Asian countries, are threatened by extinction or piracy. Immediate action is, therefore, needed to conserve genetic resources for future development. We propose cooperation among SAARC countries in this important area. Especially, we propose an exchange of our expertise in genetic conservation and maintenance of germ plasm bank. We would be prepared to offer our own training facilities in this area. We also propose cooperation in cataloguing of genetic resources, stored and available in different SAARC countries with a view to facilitating their exchange. The group of 15 developing countries had proposed the establishment of a gene bank for developing countries. I would like to invite other SAARC countries to participate in this venture as soon as it is established.

Another step that can open promising avenues for future cooperation could be the setting up of a fund for regional projects. The fund could make available credit on easy terms for the identification and development of projects and even for investments in the start of projects in the small scale sector. We could ask the senior representatives of our national development banks to get together and consider making institutional funding available for this purpose. The precise modalities about the source of funds and the manner in which they could be related to joint venture projects could be worked out at the spot level. Mr. Chairman, I emphasize this point because nobody is going to bail us out from our difficulties.

If we have to have greater progress, greater adventure in order to make this region a region of prosperity and progress, we shall have to stand on our own and whatever little resources at our command, we should try to pool it together in order to bring in something that will be a beginning of a new trust, a new confidence. Let us forget all differences. Let us start afresh, not for solving our present problem, but for looking toward a brighter future to the coming generation. It is the call of history. And if we fail in this, Mr. Chairman, we shall not be failing at this point, but we will be failing to the coming generation of this area, the area which has been the area of glory for years, for centuries altogether.

Mr. Chairman: SAARC created a regional food security reserve. However, no member-country has so far utilized this reserve. We need to review the level and the quality of the food reserve and its mode of operation and introduce a change as may be necessary to meet the needs of the member-countries.

We have fallen a year behind in completing the studies that we had mandated at the Kathmandu summit on cooperation in the fields of trade and industry and for the prevention of environmental degradation. Problems related with environmental degradation deserve immediate attention and corrective measures should be taken promptly. These studies should be completed without further delay and blueprint for regional cooperation based on them drawn up before the half-yearly meeting of the Council of Ministers. The blueprint can be adopted at the next SAARC meeting. This decision was taken in Kathmandu. And Mr. Chairman, the prime minister of Nepal is here. Environmental problems of Nepal affect us in a big way. So, may I request through you, Mr. Chairman, to the prime minister of Nepal that he should devote his more energy more in saving environment there in Nepal. It is not an advice but it is a help that I am seeking from him because on his environment depends, to a great extent, the environment of India.

Mr. Chairman, we had long decided the regular consultation among the SAARC member-countries should take place at the ministerial level in order to develop a common perception and strategy on international economic environmental issues. In the context of the rapidly changing world economic situation, the need for such consultations has become all the more necessary. We hope that the next in the series of these consultations

would take place soon after this summit. We are glad that our offer to host a ministerial-level meeting for the purpose has been accepted.

The journey that we began five years ago, Mr. Chairman, had aroused much expectation. The need for regional cooperation has since become all the more imperative and the opportunities for such cooperation [are] much more varied. It is my fervent hope that we will not lose this opportunity to impart a fresh momentum to our cooperation under SAARC.

Mr. Chairman, I know, we have many problems. But we have years ahead. We have thousands of years of cultural heritage, heritage that keeps us binding. It has not been so far disturbed because of difference of religious beliefs. It has not been disturbed by the barriers of language. Our people have remained for centuries with glory and I hope the present may be howsoever difficult, future is hopeful for us. [sentence as heard] Let us move forward with optimism, trust, and confidence in each other and also in the inherent strength of our people, because that is going to determine the future of this area and also of the world. Thank you all. [applause]

'Male Declaration' Finalized

BK2211160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] leaders had informal discussions at their retreat on the Giravaru Island near Male on matters of regional interests. They had free and frank discussions for the whole day. AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, Sushil Chopra, reports that the leaders finalized the Male Declaration which will be adopted formally tomorrow. The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, is also having bilateral meetings with the presidents of Bangladesh and the Maldives. He is likely to meet other leaders today or tomorrow. Mr. Chandra Shekhar will also address the Indian community in Male. The prime minister leaves for home tomorrow afternoon.

Our correspondent Rama Rao understands that the summit leaders have agreed with the recommendations of the foreign ministers on launching the convention of drug control. There is also a general consensus that member nations should enact suitable laws without delay for giving effect to the regional convention on suppression of terrorism.

Sharif, Shekhar Meet

BK2311050190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The new prime ministers of India and Pakistan met in the Maldives yesterday and agreed to resolve the differences between the two countries peacefully and through dialogue. Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Mr. Nawaz Sharif, who had gone to the island republic to attend the 5th SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit, met in the picturesque tourist resort in Giravaru Island near Male for about one and half hours—for 45 minutes with aides and for as much time without any.

Our correspondent Sushil Chopra reports from Male that this first meeting between the two prime ministers was very cordial and friendly. Mr. Chandra Shekhar agreed that the third round of foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan will be held at Islamabad from the 18th of next month. They also agreed that during those talks the timing of holding the next meeting of the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission to discuss the [word indistinct] project and [word indistinct] should be determined.

An official spokesman told our visiting correspondent that Mr. Nawaz Sharif raised the Kashmir issue with Mr. Chandra Shekhar and informed him about Pakistan's stand in this regard. Mr. Chandra Shekhar on his part reiterated India's stand in respect of Pakistan's interference in India's internal affairs. Speaking to Indian newsmen covering the Male Summit last night, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he was more than satisfied with his talks with Mr. Nawaz Sharif. Asked if the talks will reduce tension on the Indo-Pakistan border, the prime minister said that both of them have agreed that there should not be any tension between the two countries.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar also met the prime minister of Sri Lanka and the president of Bangladesh separately. He told newsmen later that the ethnic problem in the island was discussed with Wijeratne. The prime minister said the new external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, will soon visit Colombo and discuss the ethnic issue.

The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, made it clear at the summit yesterday that India does not want to browbeat any nation, more so any neighboring country, nor will India like to be browbeaten by others. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was talking to Indian news persons covering the summit last night. He said India will not do anything which is against the dignity, sovereignty and unity of other countries.

Further on Talks

BK2311110890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar met at the picturesque Giravaru tourist resort in Maldives near Male. The meeting between two leaders, with high-level aides, continued for 45 minutes. After that a separate meeting was held which lasted about two hours.

After the talks it was said in a joint announcement that both the leaders have agreed to resolve their differences through mutual understanding, continuous consultations, and on the basis of peaceful principles of dialogue.

Both the leaders exchanged their views on all problems, including Kashmir, existing between Pakistan and India. They agreed that all problems should be forwarded for discussion and be resolved peacefully. Nawaz Sharif clarified Pakistan's viewpoint on the Kashmir problem. At the talks they also agreed that the joint commission should set the date and venue for the talks on Rann of Kutch, Sir Creek and the Wular barrage disputes. Both the prime ministers agreed that a third round talks between the Pakistani and Indian foreign secretaries should be held in Islamabad on 18-20 December. They also agreed that both the countries should use their resources for the welfare of the people and for development of the country.

Summit Concludes

BK2311092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] At the Maldivian capital, Male, the fifth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit concluded today with an agreement on restructuring the SAARC activities to make it self-reliant. The declaration adopted at the concluding session called for extending the organization's activities to core areas of economic cooperation, biotechnology, environmental issues, and tourism, besides setting up of three regional institutions.

In a joint statement, the summit leaders also decided to take immediate measures to establish joint ventures in the field of cottage industries and handicrafts as a new area of SAARC cooperation. Our correspondent, Rama Rao, reports from Male that the Prime Minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar's proposals for creating a fund for regional projects and exchange of expertise in genetic conservation and maintenance of green bank have been incorporated in the declaration.

The nine-page declaration also called for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. The SAARC leaders called for a massive international assistance to compensate the economic loss suffered by countries in the region.

Our correspondent adds that the leaders have decided to observe the 1990's as the decade of the girl child and incorporate the relevant recommendations of the recent world summit of children into a plan of action.

The SAARC member-states have also signed a convention on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to deal effectively with the menace of drug abuse. It provides for quick extradition of the offenders and joint surveillance. Our special correspondent, Bahadur Singh, reports that besides mutual legal assistance, the convention can be used as a treaty for extradition. It is the result of continued efforts of over three years to find out an effective legal framework to break the nexus between illicit drug and international arms trade.

The Maldivian president, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the new chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, said that the five-year-old regional grouping is a demonstration of the collective will of seven nations to ensure a better standard of living. The leaders from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives in their speeches renewed their commitments to the ideals of the SAARC Charter and expressed determination to make it a vibrant forum in regional cooperation.

The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, in his speech in the concluding session, expressed his satisfaction over the summit laying a firm foundation of cooperation in core economic areas and environment-related issues besides biotechnology. Our special correspondent, Sushil Chopra, covering the prime minister's speech, reports that Mr. Chandra Shekhar, who spoke in Hindi, described the SAARC cooperation as most appropriate and timely. The prime minister said the summit has further strengthened his conviction that such meetings will have to discuss the existing problems and differences among the member-nations.

The three important regional institutions which have been approved by the summit are the human resources development center at Islamabad, the regional tuberculosis center at Kathmandu, and the regional documentation center at New Delhi. The summit also agreed to launch the special SAARC travel document to provide visa exemption facility to Supreme Court judges, parliament members, and heads of national academic institutions. The SAARC leaders resolved to enable greater interaction among the journalists of the region under the aegis of SAARC.

Addressing a news conference, the SAARC chairman, Mr. Abdul Gayoom, said that there is no need to change the organization's charter to include bilateral issues as the summit provides an opportunity for informal discussions on such matters. He also announced that the next SAARC summit will take place in Colombo.

Egypt

President Bush's Visit to Country Previewed

Foreign Minister Comments

NC2111150690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1411 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that U.S. President George Bush's visit to Egypt, which begins tomorrow, has special significance, particularly in light of the developments at both the international and Gulf levels.

In a statement today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that during his visit President Bush will brief President Husni Mubarak on all developments and the results of his contacts with world leaders in Paris, as well as on the recent tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that talks between Presidents Mubarak and Bush will focus primarily on the situation in the Gulf and ways of reaching a peaceful solution within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions which demand an Iraqi withdrawal and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy. He added that the talks will also touch on bilateral relations.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that Egypt proceeds from the need for finding a peaceful solution, even if the UN Security Council adopts a resolution authorizing the use of military force. The ultimate goal is to find a way out of the predicament without exposing the region to the dangers of war. He reiterated that Egypt's efforts have been aimed at helping rather than harming Iraq from the beginning. He explained that Egypt is not allied against Iraq and that it is concerned about what could happen to Iraq if it did not withdraw from Kuwait.

On the demand by some for a solution that will allow Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to save face, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said saving face is a good thing, provided that it is not at the expense of other people's dignity. We cannot reward the aggressor, whoever he may be, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said.

On proposals for a regional security system, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid agreed that safeguarding regional security is imperative. He remarked, however, that any security system must emerge from within the region itself and be accepted by all countries in the region; it cannot be imposed on them by a foreign power.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that this does not mean that alliances are contemplated.

Cairo Papers Comment

NC2211073790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 22 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled: "An Important Visit at a Crucial Stage," AL-AKHBAR says that Cairo today will receive President George Bush on his first visit to Egypt since he assumed his great post. The timing and occasion of this visit give it a particular importance. The world's attention is focused on the activity of the President who has managed for the first time to rally all the world powers behind a noble objective: to defend justice, legitimacy, and human rights and to deter whomever attempts to violate the international laws and charters.

The paper adds that Bush will hold talks of the utmost importance with President Husni Mubarak as part of the intensive ongoing international efforts to end through peaceful means the illegitimate Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait, thus sparing the Arab region, and perhaps the entire world, the perils of a war on a different scale than the regional wars that occasionally erupt in various parts of the world.

In a similar editorial on the visit, AL-AHRAM says that it is obvious there are not many differences in position between Egypt and the United States on the handling of the crisis. The two countries share almost identical views on the priorities, means, and objectives in this regard. This common stand springs from the Security Council resolutions, the foundations of the new world order, the conduct of the civilized world, and the belief in what international practices ought to be.

The paper adds that the visit comes at a time when there are signs of an unprecedented rapprochement between the two countries, which will have an immediate effect on a number of issues, including the Gulf crisis. The visit emphasizes that the mutual trust which is the basis for the close cooperation between Egypt and the United States is not unfounded. It also emphasizes that the good intentions in today's world must be proven at all times by credible deeds, correct acts, and sound conduct.

Opposition Says Bush 'Unwelcome'

JN2211121790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hilmi Murad, secretary general of the opposition Socialist Labor Party in Cairo; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Dr. Hilmi, what is your comment on U.S. President George Bush's visit to the region?

[Murad] This visit is part of the U.S. President's attempt to secure an Arab and Islamic cover for the American campaign that he is leading in the Gulf. We think this visit is unwelcome unless President Mubarak is going to be frank with him on the true nature of Arab sentiments concerning the Gulf crisis and the intervention of U.S. and foreign forces in purely Arab affairs; these are that the Arabs reject military confrontation that will take place on our Arab land and whose fire we are going to suffer, and that huge losses will result from this for future generations, which will benefit only Israel in achieving its expansionist, racist ambitions. In fact, Israel has already begun to achieve this through the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre, and Shamir's recent statement that Israel will not relinquish the occupied territories and that it is eager to maintain Israeli presence from the River [Jordan] to the sea. [passage omitted]

Importance Stressed

NC2211210290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "U.S. President's Visit to Egypt and the Region, The Reasons and the Timing"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush is scheduled to arrive in Cairo at any moment as part of his tour of Europe and the Middle East. The primary aim of the visit is to consolidate the final resolution which the international community will adopt concerning the Arab Gulf crisis. This crisis was created by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn when he occupied the State of Kuwait and refused to yield to the international demand for his immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of the legitimate government.

This visit is an unusual one, taking place at an unusual time to confront an unusual crisis. The international consensus on the need to punish Iraq for its occupation of Kuwait and its refusal to withdraw will not collapse.

As President Husni Mubarak asserted in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH two days ago, Iraq is making a serious mistake if it believes that the world will allow it to prolong the Gulf crisis.

The question that keeps arising is: Why did U.S. President George Bush come to the region? It is not difficult to find an answer. It is known that President Bush has come with an integrated package of military and nonmilitary resolutions to deal with the Gulf crisis. He has come to learn about the views of the region's leaders toward these resolutions. In view of the circumstances surrounding the Gulf crisis, the U.S. resolution will be fateful not only for the Arab region, but also for the entire world. Therefore, he has to discuss all details with world leaders in general, and with the region's leaders in particular. The U.S. President has repeatedly declared that the United States will not allow the aggressor to benefit from his aggression and that resorting to a military option would be necessary if Iraq's ruler insists on continuing his occupation of Kuwait and obstructing all international and Arab efforts seeking to avert a military confrontation in the region.

Undoubtedly, this visit to Egypt reveals the confidence of the United States in the influence Egypt wields as a pioneer state in the Arab region and one that possesses the keys to many effective solutions and that works within the framework of an active movement governed by principles and obligations aimed at enhancing the prospects for security and stability, not only in the Arab region but also throughout the world.

President Husni Mubarak's stand on the Gulf crisis, which is based on the need to achieve justice and on urging Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, has gained the respect and appreciation of the world for Egypt's positive role in the region. Thus, President George Bush's talks with President Mubarak assume great importance. The current efforts to end the Kuwait crisis concentrate on averting a military confrontation involving the multinational forces which are massed in the region in numbers that cannot but alarm all honest and responsible people and all those concerned not only for the Arab nation but also for the fraternal Iraqi people and their resources, which are bound to be destroyed if a war breaks out in the region. Such a war will be unprecedented and unlike other regional wars that break out every now and then in various parts of the world.

This is why the whole world is following with interest U.S. President Bush's every move, whether in the European or in the Arab arena, because all these moves seek to provide a chance for Iraq's ruler to save face and rescue his country and people from the certain destruction that will occur if all these efforts and moves fail to restore Saddam Husayn to his senses.

Everyone is aware that the United States and the whole world appreciate the courageous stand adopted by President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government and people since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and their confrontation of all the maneuvers and plots that Iraq's ruler has hatched against an Arab country and against a fraternal Arab people. Mubarak's stand has surprised all those who conspired to invade Kuwait and has upset all their calculations which sought to neutralize Egypt.

What adds to the importance of Bush's visit to Egypt is that it comes at a time when all indications are that the decisive moment to end Kuwait's tragedy is imminent. Therefore, Egypt still hopes that the Iraqi president will wake up before a great disaster strikes, that he will respond to the international community's will, and that he will withdraw from Kuwait.

President Bush Visits Cairo for Talks on Gulf

Greeted by Mubarak at Airport

NC2211185390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—U.S. President and Mrs. Bush arrived in Cairo this evening. President and Mrs.

Mubarak were at headed the reception committee at Cairo International Airport.

Begins Talks With Mubarak

NC2311082990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—An official reception ceremony for U.S. President George Bush was held at the Presidential Palace in al-Qubbah this morning.

A band played the U.S. and Egyptian national anthems. Presidents Husni Mubarak and George Bush then reviewed the honor guard in the al-Qubbah Presidential Palace garden.

President Husni Mubarak then accompanied Egypt's prominent guest, U.S. President George Bush, into the palace where the first round of bilateral talks between the two presidents began.

Before President Bush arrived at the palace, when journalists questioned President Husni Mubarak about the subjects he will discuss with President Bush and whether the Gulf crisis will be among these subjects, President Mubarak said that, certainly, the Gulf crisis will be a top subject.

Responding to a question as to whether he is optimistic about the development of the situation in light of the current efforts, President Mubarak said: "I am optimistic by nature and we are trying to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis. We also hope that there will be a political solution to the problem, but I cannot see any precedent for this at present."

The U.S. President and his accompanying delegation arrived at the al-Qubbah palace at 0910 today. President Bush visited the U.S. Embassy in Cairo earlier this morning.

Concludes First Session of Talks

NC2311103290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—Presidents Husni Mubarak and George Bush this morning held a session of talks at the Presidential Palace in al-Qubbah where President Bush is staying. This first session of talks lasted for over two hours.

President Mubarak left the Presidential Palace in al-Qubbah following his talks with President Bush. Presidents Mubarak and Bush are scheduled to meet again at the presidential offices in Heliopolis after Mubarak attends the Friday prayer service.

Presidents Mubarak and Bush will hold a joint news conference this afternoon.

MENA has learned that both Mubarak and Bush will make statements at the beginning of the conference and will then answer reporters' questions.

President Mubarak will host a banquet luncheon at the Heliopolis presidential offices in honor of President Bush and his delegation.

President Bush is due to leave Cairo for Geneva this afternoon, concluding his 19-hour official visit to Egypt.

During his stopover in Geneva, President Bush will meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. President Bush will then return to Washington.

Mubarak Comments on 'Means' To Liberate Kuwait

NC2311095290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0847 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has underlined the need for Iraqi troops to withdraw from Kuwait and for the legitimate Kuwaiti Government to be restored to power. This came in remarks he made to U.S. journalists this morning.

President Mubarak said that the other side [not further identified] has not made a move yet.

Asked about how to liberate Kuwait, Mubarak replied: By all possible means. We will try the peaceful means. It all depends on Iraq. Mubarak was then asked if there was any specific date for the military solution. He answered: I will discuss that with President Bush.

Butrus Ghali Comments on Thatcher Resignation

NC2211190390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that he believes the resignation of British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher will not lead to any change in Britain's foreign policy in general, or in its policy toward the Gulf in particular.

Dr. Ghali added that British foreign policy is characterized by continuity and by defending the objectives and principles of the United Nations.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General Visits

Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2111135290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general. A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry stated that during the meeting the two officials discussed current developments in the Arab world, primarily the situation in Lebanon, the steps taken to implement the al-Ta'if agreement, and the imposition of legitimacy throughout Lebanon. They also reviewed the Gulf crisis and its effects on the Palestinian issue.

Departs After Two-Day Visit

NC2211155090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1503 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Assistant Secretary General Lakhdar Ibrahimi left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt.

During his stay, Ibrahimi discussed developments in the Arab arena, especially the situation in Lebanon and the Gulf, with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Wafd Aide Urges Youth To Boycott Elections

PM2111160890 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Nov 90 p 7

[Article by 'Adil Lutfi Siraj-al-Din, member of the Wafd Party's General Committee in Al-Daqahliyah: "Egyptian Youth, Wake Up"]

[Text] To Egypt's stray youth, who feel a sense of loss amid these distressing crises that obstruct their hopes: Do not believe what the government says about resolving our problems and do not accept what it keeps saying about the efforts it is making for our welfare. Do not listen to the false promises that they keep making before every People's Assembly election, because what is said and repeated is quite different from what we see and feel every day. Matters are becoming more complex every day and people are suffering more and more as a result of the economic crisis in general, and high prices in particular. Today you have a sense of loss because the truth is lost and because your hopes have been dashed.

Egyptian youth, the People's Assembly—which was not really representative of the people because it was false and forged, and because the government rigged the election of that assembly—has been dissolved. The next Assembly will be just the same. You have an important role to play in politics, having refrained from political activity because of false democracy. It is a role for Egypt, which is your trust. You must work for it through organized political action among the masses so that the people's hope of ruling themselves and electing their rulers can be fulfilled without any falsification of their will.

Brother youth, every honest patriotic citizen can serve his country simply by not going to the election committees and by exposing the tricks of the ruling party, the so-called National and Democratic Party, that was never democratic. Every young man must realize that we are the ones paying the price, the whole price, because the continuation of these conditions means the continuation of the collapse in all aspects of our lives.

Brother youth, when will you view your future with realism? When will you seek your lost rights in your own country where you feel a stranger?

Minister Notes $1.5 Billion Tourism Shortfall

NC2211174890 Cairo MENA in English 1626 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo Nov. 22 (MENA)—Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism, today said that the tourist movement into Egypt dropped by 60 per cent during October and November and that the slump would result in 1.5 billion dollar loss in tourist revenues this year.

Sultan made the statement before the symposium on tourism and the Gulf events held here today. He added that he was currently considering a number of proposals on the state's partial compensation of the tourist sector in Egypt for the losses incurred by the Gulf crisis. There is a massive information move to offset the negative effects of the Gulf crisis on tourism in Egypt, he said. The Ministry of Tourism extends invitations to tourist writers and world tour organizers to visit Egypt, he added.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Letter to CSCE Meeting

LD2111132990 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Nov 90

["Text" of letter by leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the CSCE conference, in Paris—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency, chairman of the conference: Greetings!

First, I should like to address most sincere congratulations and good wishes for this important conference which holds extreme importance due to the fact that it is dealing with an issue that interests not only the peoples of Europe but also the peoples of the world, who are all looking forward to a world where security, stability, and cooperation prevail. We consider this conference of yours a step forward toward this end.

What reinforces this conviction of ours is the fact that, during its meeting, the conference will adopt the first treaty to reduce conventional weapons in Europe radically, a matter that is rightly regarded as an important step on the road to disarmament which is the hope of all peace and progress loving peoples.

On this basis, Libya supports your efforts in this way, with all the means at its disposal. In this respect, I must not overlook emphasizing the developments and changes witnessed by the world, in general, and Europe, in particular, that have paved the road to your conference and opened up the possibility of the emergence of a new international order based on dialogue and cooperation, which puts an end to the Cold War policy that prevailed since World War II, a period interspersed with confrontations and a frenzied arms race that exhausted the potentials and resources of peoples and often put mankind on the brink of destruction and annihilation.

We consider that the most important objective of this conference is the abolition of the situation resulting from World War II. In my speech at the nonaligned summit, in Belgrade on 5 September 1989, and on other occasions, I stressed the need to end these unfair situations to a number of peoples in Europe and elsehwere. I dealt, in particular, with the partition of Germany and the Arab states, the Berlin Wall, and the setting up of the Jewish state in Palestine. While lauding some achievements realized so far in this direction, I must affirm here that, to usher the world into a real and lasting peace, we must abolish all the unjust situations that resulted from World War II, and not just some of these situations.

Out of justice and equity, one just mention here of the question of the Palestinian people, one of the victims of the aforementioned unfair arrangements. I believe firmly that the states participating in this important conference bear an historic and ethical responsibility in this and that the conference can contribute in a major and effective way to finding a just solution to this question. This requires the cancellation of all the arrangements that followed the war regarding Palestine.

We believe that the alternative solution to these arrangements is the setting up of a democratic Palestinian state that brings together Jews and Palestinians, just like the current trend in South Africa.

The dispersed Palestinian people would then return to such a state, where elections would be held under UN sponsorship, and the Zionist state would, thus, disappear.

It is wrong that the Palestinian people should bear alone the results of World War II, or bear the arrangements that followed this war which came as an act of revenge against Hitler. We do not believe that anyone would accept to sacrifice the future of the world for the sake of setting up a sectarian ministate.

It is absurd to divide the world on such a basis, and it is wrong to implement this against the Palestinian people. It was only after 1948 that the world heard the word Israel, i.e. after World War II. But, before this, and for thousands of years, Palestine existed on the terrestrial map.

This proposal of mine is for the sake of saving world peace. Not taking it up would inevitably lead to the continuation and stepping up of violence. Your work would be diminished if it failed to include the Middle East and solving the Palestine question, because the Jewish state is one of the arrangements of World War II. It would not be right to abolish some of these arrangements and to maintain some of them, as this would not benefit world peace.

Finally, please accept my highest regards and salutations, with my wishes to see the conference succeed and to realize the objectives expected from it. [Signed] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Thatcher Resignation

LD2211195390 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution made a statement today to JANA on Thatcher's political fall. He said: Thatcher's fall has come as a result of the accumulation of policies hostile to the revolutionaries of the world and to human rights. She should have been tried for starving to death the children of Northern Ireland and those of the British miners and for transforming Britain into a U.S. aircraft carrier. She threw herself on the ground and tied her future with that of the other fallen person, Reagan, and enabled him to kill innocent Libyan children, motivated by hatred and enmity toward the revolution and freedom. Unless Thatcher is put on trial now for those crimes, Britain will no longer be considered a civilized state. Her fall at the hands of the members of her own party, despite its dreadfulness, is not enough until she is put on trial.

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Problems With Europe

LD2111163190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to members of the People's Committee for Public Amenities, Place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

Take the example of the school in al-Murzuq for the construction of which a company from Brazil was brought. From Brazil. This is shameful, brothers. From Brazil, from across the Atlantic Ocean. Imagine somebody moving from that country to another part of the world, bringing with him even equipment. Can't we Libyans build a school? If was a matter of laser, then alright, they say: we are not there yet, we are still learning it. Regarding the atom, they say: we are not there, we are still learning about it. But when it comes to bricks, then there is no excuse.

You must review all this. Even the form of this table, you must review. It is not clear whether this table is for a meeting or for a restaurant. [passage omitted]

All designs are wrong due to colonialism and also to hastily done work. You must define the means of implementation of projects. Just do not expect anymore to have Romanian, Polish, Czech, or Turkish companies. We are in dispute with them and we have problems with them now. We are demanding that Turkey should compensate us for colonialism. It has sold off Libya to Italy in return for islands in the Aegean sea. There is a problem between it and us. Either it compensates us or forgives us [Libya's debts to Turkey], or there won't be any cooperation any more between it and us.

The same applies to Italy, Germany: We have submitted an official memo to it saying that Rommel planted mines, destroyed our land, and helped the Italians in the

World War II to colonize our country, and we must be compensated. This is a problem. Italy had planted mines in our land. Britain likewise planted mines in our land. Do not expect these [to help]?

Likewise, the countries of East Europe were friends of ours, and now they handed over all our files to the United States. They have passed information about the weapons we bought from them: quantities, types. And from Moscow to Hungary, they are admitting things about Iraq, about Libya. Even Iraq. They were asked: what did you sell to Iraq? And the Russians are now passing on to the Americans the secrets of the weapons they sold to Iraq, concerning the range, the forms, etc. So, do not expect cooperation between them and us. We must rely on ourselves.

In the past they indeed used to be our friends. We used to bring over from them nurses, doctors, equipment, companies. They used to build for us and go. There used to be cooperation between them and us. They used to stand with us against imperialism and against Zionism. And now they have said: the Israelis, the Arabs, the Cubans, and others are all the same. The Soviet Union now does not make a difference between Cuba and the Israelis. To it, they are all the same. Neither does the Soviet Union make a difference between Palestine and Israel, [words indistinct] one with a cause, and one with a state. Thus you must rely on yourselves. The means of execution [of projects] must be national. If there were delays, then no problem. If this means we do not build, then we do not build. Generally we have already laid down the basic structure. [passage omitted]

JANA Comments on Arab Chemical Weapons

LD2011201790 Tripoli JANA in English 1656 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Washington, Al Harth [November] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The ASSOCIATED PRESS AGENCY reported news from Washington saying that the U.S. experts were confirming that Syria has an arsenal of chemical weapons not in the least less dangerous than the one owned by Iran.

The agency added that the U.S. officials did not hide their concern towards Syria's production of chemical weapons and that they have tried to prevent Syria from acquiring the necessary materials to produce such weapons but they failed.

The agency reported that Sid Caros the U.S. expert in modern warfare was reported saying that the Syrian chemical war programme was the source of concern for the biggest arms exporter to Syria - the Soviet Union, and that Syria had been producing many tons of nerve gas and mustard gas yearly and that it owns more accurate means to tackle this industry than others.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on this by saying:

What is concluded as an undisputable truth for those Arabs who are aware or not, that their exists no possibility for understanding with imperialism and Zionism, for the enemies of the Arab nation consider Syria is not less dangerous than Iraq and that the strike to be directed at Iraq will be directed at Syria. If Iraq was not hit, then the beginning will be Syria or with other which is a doctrine in the logic of imperialism and Zionism...moreover, what Syria had offered as good intentions towards some had gone with the wind...the matter here is not linked to a political regime or with a certain drive that may constitute a danger, but that is linked by the Arab as an individual or by the Arabs as plural, whether they be a people or a nation. In this respect it is the right of all the states of the government of the world to possess what it likes from chemical or atomic or conventional weapons but it is not right for the Arabs to possess that, what is required from them is to remain as a herd of sheep the most healthy of whom will be the lead to the slaughter and the weakest to the meadows.

The decision taken by imperialism was to impose total and full ban on the Arabs to possess the modern technological means and their possession of defensive means for their threatened existence...what is worse than that is the objection by imperialism is the right of arabs to all their human and material potentials to achieve their unity leader under any form and under any circumstances or context. [as received]

And within the framework of what is being discussed now as a conversation or any dispute regarding the new world order, the Arabs will find themself faced with such objection and ban on their right to achieve their unity for a simple reason: imperialism and the West see the unity of the Arabs as a new element threatening these strategies of domination and control over the wealth of the Arab homeland and its strategic location. The struggle here is linked with whoever owns such potentials—the Arabs themselves within the unity vision and the nationalist investments of potentials and capabilities or for imperialism as it works toward submitting such potentials and manipulating them to serve its strategic goals the most prominent of which controlling the most important strategic site and controlling the biggest oil reserves in the world.

The conclusion we arrive at is: The Americans show no objection or worry to the Israelis possessing chemical and nuclear weapons [word indistinct] they want to restrict their position in them...and this will lead to undeniable truth that is facing us all as Arabs which is based upon: "The nonexistence of a possibility to establish relations between the Arab nation and its enemies".

Would the Arabs as a whole realize what illusion they are in which is like deep day dreaming. [as received]

Nicaragua's Ortega Arrives in Tripoli

LD2111204790 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Daniel Ortega the ex-president of Nicaragua and the leader of the Sandinista Front in Nicaragua and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli today.

In a statement to JANA, Ortega said that the relations between the Libyan Arab people and the people of Nicaragua are excellent "because we both work towards achieving the same goals and are struggling against a common enemy".

Sudan

Egypt's Envoy Praises Sudanese View of Gulf

EA2211211690 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 22 November (SUNA)—The Egyptian ambassador to Khartoum has lauded Sudan's principled position on the Gulf crisis, describing it as rational. He said Sudan's clear position has been [word indistinct] and misunderstood just as other positions of some fraternal Arab countries have been misunderstood.

The ambassador, Dr. Hasan Jad al-Haqq, was speaking in an interview carried by AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, excerpts of which were published in today's issue. He described Sudanese-Egyptian relations as different from relations among other countries because of their particular character resulting from fixed principles which are not affected by incidental issues from other venues in which the countries have no role. He said that the roots of relations between the countries [words indistinct] in the depths of history and that they would never disintegrate because they are a web of religion, [word indistinct], kinship, and blood.

His excellency explained during the interview that Egypt was only dealing with the symbolic figures of the so-called Sudanese opposition as Sudanese citizens, explaining that Egypt only dealt politically with Sudan's existing legitimate government of which the Sudanese approve.

On the Egyptian position, which is against resorting to war and for giving peace efforts more time, the ambassador (?stated) to the newspaper that Egypt's policy toward peace is strategic and it applies to all countries. It is better to implement this policy on an Arab country, namely Iraq, because we do not want war to be waged against Iraq so she suffers from destruction and a waste of her energy, he said. [passage indistinct] Dr. Jad al-Haqq stressed that Egypt would spare no effort to solve the problem and that it was concerned about relations between Sudan and Chad.

SPLA Capture Garrison, Issue Warning

EA2111193190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] This morning, Tuesday, 20 November 1990, SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Front] forces of Bright Star campaign, phase three, sector two, stormed at 0530 hours in a surprise attack [and] captured Bahr Na'am garrison, 17 miles from Maridi. The details will follow as soon as they arrive at radio SPLA.

By the capture of Bahr Na'am, the Bright Star campaign commander warns the soldiers and civilians in both Yei and Maridi that time is up. You must simply join the SPLA or leave Yei and Maridi. We will give you passage to Zaire and from there, like those before you, you will be flown to Khartoum. Civilians in Yei and Maridi must leave now to avoid being caught in crossfire. We are dead serious. The junta's soldiers in Yei and Maridi must take this bright star campaign warning as dead serious. You have three choices. One is to join the SPLA and you will have equal rights like any other soldier; or join the legitimate command of [former Sudanese chief of staff] General Fathi Ahmad Ali, and in this case, SPLA forces will direct you to the collecting centers of the legitimate command that are located behind SPLA lines; or simply go to Zaire, like those who went before, and from there you will find your way to Khartoum, like those who went before you. There is no other choice. Staying in Yei and Maridi to wait for parachuted supplies and for SPLA bullets when you know that no rescue will ever reach Yei or Maridi is not a choice like that of [Colonel Muhammed] Sayf al-Dawlah al-Amin Keyala. That is suicide.

Details of Capture Reported

EA2211225490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Summary] The details of the capture by Bright Star forces of Bahr Na'am garrison on 20 November 1990 have come in. The Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] correspondent in the area says the strength of the enemy garrison at Bahr Na'am at the time of capture comprised one reinforced company commanded by a Major Sadiq, Lieutenant Salah, and 2d Lt. Muhammad al-Bashir, all of whom fled toward Maridi. The SPLA forces captured three machine guns, a mortar, an RPG, a rifle, and a quantity of ammunition and shells. A number of enemy soldiers defected to the SPLA before the battle started. One enemy soldier of the rank of Lance Corporal was killed.

The SPLA now remain in firm control of Bahr Na'am garrison and have advanced to within artillery range of Maridi. The Bright Star campaign commander again warns civilians in Maridi to leave the town for their safety.

Government Withdrawal Plans

EA2211112090 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Reports reaching us from the military intelligence in Khartoum say that the command of the military junta has received a signal from Yei garrison warning the military authority that the garrison will withdraw to Zaire from the town if no support reaches it within 48 hours, and if no food or military aid reaches this garrison, or help from soldiers of the National Front.

Rebels Deny Khartoum Claims of Battle Victory

EA2111182090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], in a message to radio SPLA, today dismissed Khartoum's claims, carried over the BBC, that their forces killed 90 SPLA soldiers and burned down two SPLA camps at Jabal Maluk and Bilinyang as rubbish and complete fabrication. The spokesman said: not only was there no SPLA soldier killed or no camp burned, there was simply no fighting at all. Both Jabal Maluk and Bilinyang are within a 15 km radius of Juba. SPLA forces of the Bright Star campaign have been in those places since March 1988 and will continue to be there until the time to march on Juba is ordered by their commander in chief.

The spokesman went on to say that Khartoum's lie was simply fabricated in a useless attempt to raise the morale of the junta's demoralized troops in Yei and Maridi. The spokesman concluded by warning the junta that the SPLA can make mass artillery bombardment of Juba any time it chooses and thereby (?choke) off the junta's lie.

Rebels Report Army Replaced by NIF Militias

EA2211230690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Reports reaching us from military intelligence say the soldiers of the National Islamic Front [NIF] have redeployed their militias after having moved the active service forces out of the capital. The operation is being carried out by Lieutenant General Allam by sending battalions to the Sawba area and the outskirts of the capital. NIF elements have been deployed to guard the capital at night in the form of armed units supplied with land cruisers. The units have been deployed as follows:

(1) between al-Manshiyyah and the Imtidad Nasir where al-Turabi's house is located;

(2) the Nuqtat Kawbar neighborhood in Bahri;

(3) the neighborhood of the officers' club; and

(4) the Kubri neighborhood of the Armed Forces toward the Blue Nile Cinema.

This development has arisen from the NIF soldiers' fear of the Sudanese Army because the Front does not consider the latter to be loyal to it. For that reason, the Front is acting to put its militias in place of the army following breakdowns of security, manifestations of instability, and confrontation.

There has been grumbling among the officers and other ranks arising from breaches of military regulations in that senior officers are forbidden to move during curfew while militia and junior officers of the Front in the Armed Forces are allowed to move freely. Important and sensitive Armed Forces installations are being guarded by the Front's militias during curfew.

Al-Bashir Pardons 518 Prisoners

AB2211152490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 22 November (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), General 'Umar al-Bashir, yesterday ordered the release of 518 inmates at Omdurman prison in response to recommendation by the chief justice, the justice minister and attorney general and the national capital commissioner.

The pardoned inmates comprised: 373 males serving imprisonment for less than six months, 80 juveniles, 65 women punished for making local liquor, besides other women imprisoned for periods not exceeding one year.

The pardoned inmates officially pledged before the chief justice, the attorney general and the national capital commissioner that they would forsake doing acts prohibited by law.

Bahrain

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Belonogov Visits

Arrives 22 Nov

JN2211105790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 22 Nov (WAKH)—Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet deputy foreign minister, arrived in Manama today from Abu Dhabi on a visit to Bahrain as part of a tour to a number of states in the region. During the visit, the Soviet official will convey a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini amir, from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

He was received upon arrival by 'Ali Ibrahim al-Mahrus, head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department.

Meets With Deputy Amir

JN2211115590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 22 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, received Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov today.

The Soviet envoy conveyed to his highness a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifa, amir of Bahrain, from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev concerning the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and relations between the two countries.

They also reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf arena in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the international efforts to secure the Iraqi troops' withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah; Shaykh Khalid Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, director of the heir apparent's office; and 'Ali Ibrahim al-Mahrus, head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department.

Urges UN Warning to Iraq

JN2211184990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1816 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 22 Nov (WAKH)—A senior Soviet official has urged the UN Security Council [UNSC] to issue a new warning to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to withdraw his troops from Kuwait.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov warned the Iraqi president that he will be faced with firmer and more stringent measures if he rejects the warning. He declared that military force will be the only means to force an Iraqi withdrawal if all peace initiatives fail.

In a predeparture statement to WAKH in Manama this evening, Belonogov said that the date on which the UNSC will pass a resolution against Iraq authorizing the use of force will be decided through consultations among the five permanent members of the UNSC. He expressed the belief that the passage of such a resolution will reflect the unity of the international coalition against the Iraqi aggression.

The Soviet official described his talks with His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of the State of Bahrain, as cordial and positive. He added that he was acquainted during these talks with the Bahraini position on the serious developments in the Gulf region. He went on to say that he visited Bahrain as a personal envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to convey a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, on the Soviet position toward the current Gulf crisis.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister noted that the objective of his tour of the region's states is to meet with their leaders to exchange views with them on regional developments in view of the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait.

Belonogov termed the regional situation as dangerous. He said that this dangerous situation was created by Iraq's refusal to comply with the UNSC resolutions for an unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. He stated that the international community will not accept this situation. He pointed out, moreover, that one of the objectives of his tour is to know the opinions of the region's states on the measures that have to be taken as regards the implementation of UNSC resolutions.

The Soviet envoy added that he also reviewed Bahraini-Soviet ties with His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah. He went on to say that his highness the deputy amir expressed the hope that these ties would be enhanced. He said that there are good prospects for promoting bilateral cooperation, not only in the political field, but also in the economic field and others. He added: The two countries recently agreed to establish relations at the ambassadorial level. Ambassadors will be exchanged soon.

The Soviet official also said that he held talks with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, with whom he discussed all aspects of the Gulf situation.

Interior Minister, Kuwaiti Counterpart Meet

JN2111054690 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, Nov 20 (GNA)—Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah held a round of talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Sabah here this morning.

Present were the Deputy Director General of Public Security Maj. Gen. Shaykh Ibrahim Bin-Muhammad Al Khalifah, the assistant to the Director General of Public Security Brig. Ahmad Bu-'Ali, the Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires in Bahrain Jamal al-Ghanim and the delegation accompanying the Kuwaiti minister.

Following the meeting, Shaykh Muhammad said the talks covered the security situation in the Gulf region following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

He described the invasion as a dangerous event and called for the implementation of resolutions of the Arab summit, the Islamic Conference Organisation and the U.N Security Council.

He said Iraq should withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait and restore its legitimate government led by H.H. the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

He added that the talks also covered prospects of enhancing security cooperation between the two countries and the latest arab and international developments.

Kuwait

Amir Writes to Algerian Islamic Front Leader

PM2111122690 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 17 Nov 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "From Kuwait's Amir To Abassi Madani: Kuwait Supported Palestinian Cause and Saddam Gave Israel a Free Hand"]

[Text] Al-Ta'if, AL-ZAHIRAH—Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah yesterday sent a letter—signed on his behalf by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister—to Shaykh Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic [Salvation] Front in Algeria, in reply to a letter sent by Madani to Shaykh Jabir on 20 October about the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue within the context of the overall Arab situation.

The Kuwaiti amir's letter comprised four main points in which he explained the positive role which Kuwait has played in supporting the Palestinian cause. He also explained how the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has diverted the world's attention from Israel's persecution of the Palestinian people and given the Zionist regime a free hand in suppressing the intifadah. This is in addition to the seizure of the territory of a fraternal Arab state and its elimination from the map.

Shaykh Jabir said that the objective of his letter was to "explain some of the facts which will help you understand the great disaster and gross injustices to which Kuwait and its people have been exposed." The letter reads as follows:

First, Kuwait played a major role in backing the Palestinian cause. Its movement was launched from Kuwait, from Kuwait's territory, and with its support, scores of Palestinian leaders emerged, including PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who on many occasions has cited Kuwait's notable role in backing the Palestinian revolution and bolstering its people's steadfastness. Kuwait did this, proceeding from its Arab and Islamic duty to support Arab liberation movements. Perhaps you will remember Kuwait's clear and practical stand at both the official and the popular level toward our brother mujahidin in Algeria during the glorious liberation war.

Second, despite its small size, Kuwait has hosted thousands of the Palestinian people's sons, who represent the largest community in the State of Kuwait. They have supported their brothers in the occupied Arab territories and bolstered their steadfastness against the occupation. The State of Kuwait and its people have cooperated with them in financing many schools, universities, and charitable organizations in the occupied territories. This continuing support represented a source of concern and alarm to the the Israeli enemy, who always sought to stop this support by various means. This was fully achieved for Israel when the Iraqi regime invaded Kuwait, thus enabling Israel to tighten its grip around the Palestinian intifadah. As a result, the aid to the intifadah has ceased and many of the Palestinian brothers residing in Kuwait have now lost their savings, whose value has fallen as a result of the Iraqi economic measures. Thousands of Palestinian families that relied on their relatives in Kuwait cannot now find anyone to bolster their resistance and steadfastness against the Israeli occupation. Thousands of the Palestinians residing in Kuwaiti have started a new journey, whose fate is unknown, in search for a new shelter that will magnanimously and kindly agree to house them, as Kuwait did. So we can see that the Iraqi Army aimed its blow against not only the Kuwaiti people but also the Palestinian people, whether those residing in Kuwait or those living inside the occupied territories.

Third, in Clause 9 of your appeal you called on the conflicting Arab governments in the Gulf to resolve their disputes by withdrawing the Iraqi occupation forces from Kuwait, by evacuating the foreign forces present in the Arabian Gulf, and by mobilizing all their forces and resources to confront the Jewish aggression against Palestine. The foreign forces would not have come to the Gulf had it not been for the Iraqi aggression against international legitimacy represented by its occupation of Kuwait and its elimination from the world map. You—like the Arab, Muslim Kuwaiti people—probably thought that the Iraqi forces were the tool which would liberate Palestine. But the facts have now been exposed: The Iraqi regime trained and prepared its army to hit a neighboring Muslim and Arab state. In fact it went beyond that, to hit the Arabs and Muslims themselves. The Palestinian issue has been eclipsed since the Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait, and so have Israeli practices against Arab and Muslim residents. This has led to the fragmentation of Arab and Islamic solidarity. The image of the Arab and Islamic nation before the international community now seems shabby and does not reflect its previous cultural radiance.

The Iraqi regime is trying to convince the Arab and Islamic world that it cannot liberate Palestine before liberating all the Arab states situated on the Arabian Gulf.

Almighty God says: "Behold! how they invent a lie against God, but that itself is a manifest sin! [Koranic verse]

Fourth: While we share your feelings toward the Palestinian people, we would like you to pay attention to what your brothers in Kuwait are suffering at the hands of the sinful Iraqi regime. Over a million citizens and residents have been made homeless since 2 August. The Iraqi authorities have seized their possessions and money after allowing acts of murder and rape. All state amenities and public establishments are also being systematically plundered. Contents of schools, hospitals, and shops have been moved to Baghdad. For the past three months scores of civilians have been executed daily for no reason, following exposure to various kinds of brutal and immoral torture that conflict with the principles of Islam, which forbids Muslims from doing an injustice to their Muslim brothers, in accordance with the saying of our noble prophet, peace be upon him: "Muslims are brothers, they do not betray one another, they do not mislead one another, and they do not abandon one another. All that belongs to a Muslim cannot be violated by a Muslim—his honor, his property, and his blood."

The amir added that the Iraqi regime did not observe "the neighbor's right, nor the sanctity of Islam in a holy month. Its forces violated honor, property, and blood. They also violated the sanctity of mosques, closing some and preventing worshipers from saying their prayers."

By such actions, the oppressive Iraqi forces have ignored the words of Almighty God: "If anyone slays someone—unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land—it will be as if he had slain the entire people. And if anyone saves a life, it will be as though he had saved the lives of the entire people." [Koranic verse]

He concluded his letter by saying: The current practices of the Iraqi occupation Army very much exceed what has happened and is happening to our Palestinian brothers in the occupied Arab territories, over and above the fact that they come from a neighboring Muslim and Arab country.

Perhaps you share our view that one of the pillars of our faith is to support right, repulse oppression, and deter oppressors, in accordance with and implementation of God's ruling against those that oppress others. Almighty God says: "Whoever honors the sacred rites of God, for him it is good in the sight of his Lord." [Koranic verse]

Prime Minister Says Embargo Not Sufficient

TA2211190290 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah by TRT correspondent Ilhan Omur in al-Ta'if; al-Sabah in Arabic fading into superimposed Turkish translation; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Omur] It is not the first time that a country has been occupied, but it is the first time that the world is fully united against an occupation. Do you think that the measures that have been adopted since the occupation of your country are sufficient or are you in favor of a military intervention?

[Al-Sabah] We do not want the use of force or war. We want to keep Kuwait from war. We know that if war breaks out Kuwait will be one of the countries most hit by it. The head of the Iraqi administration has repeatedly rejected the UN Security Council resolution calling for a withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory. If Iraq abides by the resolutions then the region will not be faced with the threat of war. Otherwise, Iraq should bear the consequences of the war that might break out. The United Nations has adopted a resolution on an economic embargo. This embargo is being enforced by various countries. I personally believe that there are some countries that do not enforce this embargo. Iraq will not be affected by this economic embargo, and it will not be sufficient to force Saddam from Kuwait. The embargo can be effective only if it is fully implemented.

[Omur] In the event of war, how will Kuwait support the intervention? Does Kuwait have an army outside or will it support the war economically?

[Al-Sabah] No doubt, we have ground, air, and naval forces at our command. Since it is a matter of war, however, I cannot give information on these forces. This is the military aspect of the issue. Our forces, however, are acting in unison with the forces in Saudi Arabia.

[Omur] In the event the crisis is solved either by force or by peaceful means, are you in favor of a U.S. or a UN force in the Gulf?

[Al-Sabah] Of course, the forces deployed in Saudi Arabia are there because of the occupation of Kuwait. I believe that when Saddam withdraws these forces will also withdraw.

[Omur] Iraq wants the Kuwaiti people to decide on the future of Kuwait. What are your views on the issue?

[Al-Sabah] We want the head of the Iraqi administration to abide by the UN resolutions. The Islamic countries and the United Nations have adopted resolutions calling on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. In other words, they want the restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait. We have, time and again, stated that no Kuwaiti can even conceive of renouncing an inch of territory.

[Omur] What can you say about the role of Turkey throughout the Gulf crisis?

[Al-Sabah] On this occasion, I am happy to say that Turkey has acted as a friendly and brotherly country from the onset of the crisis. This is commendable. The

Turkish people, the government, and the president condemned the Iraqi attack on the second day and called for the restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait and for the implementation of the UN resolutions. From the very beginning, Turkey sided with the just. I express my appreciation on behalf of the Kuwaiti people. I hope that the friendly countries that from the very beginning called for the restoration of the rights of the Kuwaiti people will continue to support Kuwait in the coming days, because a difficult period is awaiting us. Iraq has to end this occupation as soon as possible if the peoples in the region are to relax. If Iraq does that, we will not harbor feelings of enmity.

Paper Analyzes Effects of Economic Blockade

JN2211191190 Kuwait AL-NIDA' in Arabic 18 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Stronger Than Blockade"]

[Text] Now that more than three months have passed since the emergence of the so-called Gulf crisis which resulted from the U.S. occupation of the lands of the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf and also from the desecration of Islamic holy sites, the United States and its allies are standing with their cowardly armies and fleets before the Iraqi giant, not knowing how to climb out of the abyss into which they have fallen.

Even though the Bush administration and its petty allies have not ceased to beat the drums of war and to turn the world into an enemy of lofty Iraq, Iraq has repeatedly announced its desire to find an honorable solution to the crisis from a position of strength that rejects the establishment of peace through spear heads and gun muzzles.

While announcing this, Iraq is well aware that right is bound to triumph if it is supported by actual might. Iraq is well aware of its might and also of the might of its adversary. However, might is not only measured by the number of aircraft, tanks, and missiles deployed. It is actually measured by the momentum generated by willpower, and by the determination to triumph—two elements that Iraq has and the hostile unholy alliance lacks.

The enemies' camp has wagered that Iraq will retreat in the face of the racist blockade enforced by the colonial parties against it. However, pieces of evidence show that this blockade has inflicted grave losses on the invaders enforcing the blockade, as they have begun to complain. As for the economies of imperialist states, they are being exposed to severe tremors not witnessed in the past decade. Moreover, there is political upheaval day in and day out against the governments of these states.

In the past, the Arabs said: "Adversity might bring benefits." This proverb is relevant here because the racist blockade opened the door to the creative and innovative capabilities of the Iraqi citizens to manifest themselves.

This malicious conspiracy against Arab Iraq has christened the relationship existing between Iraqi citizens and their leader and lands. Thus, the blockade has become a weapon working in favor rather than against the leader. As for the land, large-scale cultivation endeavors have been initiated to make it produce more so that it can address the world's thieves and say: You will not be able to rob Iraqi children of their dreams. Likewise, you will not be able to prevent the sun of victory from rising on the lands of Mesopotamia. Victory is ours. As for shame and disgrace, they will be the lot of the enemies, God willing.

Official Calls Hostage Offer 'Desperate' Game

PM2311152590 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 20 Nov 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub Says: Iraqi Initiative To Release Hostages a Desperate Game; World Will Confront It With Greater Steadfastness"]

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, KUNA—Kuwait yesterday denounced the so-called Iraq initiative on the release of the hostages, describing it as "a new game in the context of the desperate attempts to divert world attention from the main Kuwaiti issue."

Acting Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub said in a press statement here that since the start of its invasion Iraq has tried "to play many interconnected cards, including the hostage card, to divert attention from Kuwait and from the oppression, torture, and destruction to which the Kuwaiti people are exposed." Dr. al-Ya'qub described the so-called new Iraqi initiative as "distracting public opinion away from the principal objective—implementation of the Security Council resolution stipulating Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy." The Kuwaiti minister said that Iraq's selection of the December-March period clearly reflects his main objective, namely, to play for time and delay implementation of the international resolutions.

Kuwait said through its information minister that President Saddam Husayn's linking the release of the hostages to the nonoccurrence of anything that disturbs the atmosphere of peace is an attempt to freeze the present situation during that period. [passage omitted]

Official on New Passport, Cabinet Reshuffle

PM2311155790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Nov 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: New Kuwaiti Passports Probable"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—A senior Kuwaiti official has revealed the existence of an inclination to issue a new Kuwaiti passport for citizens

who are outside the occupied homeland as a result of the conditions resulting from the brutal Iraqi invasion. He said that the Interior Ministry quarters concerned have completed all the required steps to replace the present passport carried by Kuwait's sons in Arab and foreign capitals. But he did not specify a date for implementing that measure, although he said that it is being carried out in order to deny the Iraqi regime the opportunity to issue Kuwaiti passports to Iraqi intelligence agents with a view to dispatching them to various states of the world to carry out sabotage tasks and operations.

Meanwhile, the official said that the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle within the framework of the legitimate Kuwaiti authority in al-Ta'if is very likely, and that that inclination exists and will be realized once the higher quarters in al-Ta'if deem it necessary. He totally ruled out, however, the possibility of replacing the present bank note, the dinar, with another currency. He said there is no justification for such a move at present, especially as the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank have the numbers of all the Kuwaiti money stolen by the Iraqi occupation forces from the bank's vaults following the invasion of Kuwait.

Oman

Iraqi Foreign Minister Pays Unexpected Visit

Arrives 21 Nov

NC2111141290 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Muscat, Nov 21 (AFP)—Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived here unexpectedly Wednesday [21 November] to begin the first visit to a Gulf monarchy by an Iraqi official since Baghdad's seizure of Kuwait.

Mr. 'Aziz travelled to Oman after a brief stop-over in Yemen. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was also expected to visit both Gulf states after the European security summit in Paris.

Omani officials said the Iraqi foreign minister would deliver a message to the Omani leader, Sultan Qabus, from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Mr. 'Aziz was met at the airport here by Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi 'Abdallah.

Oman, current head of the Gulf Cooperation Council that includes Kuwait, has urged Iraq to withdraw its troops from the emirate. [passage omitted]

Meets With Qabus

NC2111191690 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 21 Nov 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God preserve him, received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the al-Sib Palace today. 'Aziz conveyed to his majesty a message from His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with Iraq's acceptance of the principle of dialogue as means for a peaceful solution, which His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has advocated to resolve the crisis.

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and his excellency the Iraqi ambassador accredited to the Sultanate also attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit

NC2211163490 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left the Sultanate this evening after a two-day visit during which he was given an audience by His Majesty Sultan Qabus. His excellency conveyed a message to his majesty from His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz was seen off by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs; his excellency the Iraqi amabassador to the Sultanate; and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Saudi Arabia

President Bush Welcomed to Jeddah by King Fahd

LD2111175190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1725 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 21 Nov (SPA)—His Excellency President George Bush, the President of the United States, arrived in Jeddah this evening on a visit to the Kingdom.

His Excellency was welcomed by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. [passage omitted]

Meets With Fahd

LD2111222590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Nov (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God safeguard him, and His Excellency President George Bush, President of the United States held a meeting at the Royal Court in the evening today.

On the Saudi side, the meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Amir 'Abdallah Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, aviation, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi ambassador to the United States; Ibrahim al-Anqari, His Majesty's private advisor; His

Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of oil and mineral resources and acting minister of planning; and the accompanying minister.

It was also attended on the American side by by His Excellency the Secretary of State Mr. James Baker, the U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom Mr. Charles Freeman, the White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, the Presidential Assistant for National Security Affairs Brent Scowcroft, the Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asia Affairs John Kelly, the Presidential Assistant and Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater, the Presidential Private Assistant for National Security Affairs and Director of the Near East and South Asia Affairs at the National Security Council Richard Hess.

Communique on 'Full Agreement'

LD2111225690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Nov (SPA)—The following press communique was issued in the evening today, following the talks which the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, held with President George Bush, the President of the United States.

The meeting which took place between the custodian of the two holy mosques and his excellency the President, was fruitful and positive, and the talks between them were characterized by the full agreement of views on the issues which were on the agenda.

The custodian of the two holy mosques welcomed at the start of the meeting his friend President Bush as a representative of the American people on the occasion of his excellency's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The meeting was a good opportunity at which the custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his thanks to and appreciation of His Excellency President George Bush, the American people, and its representatives in Congress for their effective support against the threats facing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its people as a result of the sinful Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, and the threat to the world economy in general and the economies of the developing countries in particular, and also to stability in the region.

The views of the custodian of the two holy mosques and his excellency the President were in agreement on the importance and extreme necessity for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, the resolutions of the Arab summit, and those of the Arab League Council and the Islamic Conference Organization, which have all condemned the Iraqi aggression and demanded the immediate complete withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy.

The views of the two leaders were in agreement that these resolutions which stem from the will of the international community as a whole must be implemented without prior conditions, on the need for the aggressor not to reap any gains from its aggression, and that this is the best means—not the sole means—of solving this crisis peacefully, which is the objective for which the two leaders strive.

The two leaders along with the rest of the world condemned the harsh and inhuman treatment to which the occupied people of Kuwait have been exposed at the hands of the Iraqi authorities, as well as the treatment of foreign citizens interned in Kuwait and Iraq. They demanded that it is necessary for the Iraqi Government to abide by the resolutions of the Security Council and the international laws and conventions in this connection.

The two leaders reaffirmed that the friendly forces will withdraw as soon as this crisis comes to an end, or when they are asked to do so by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed—on this occasion—his thanks and appreciation to the leaders and peoples of the fraternal and friendly states which came together in support of the Saudi people in their confrontation with Iraqi aggression.

Meets Kuwaiti Amir

LD2211005490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 21 Nov (SPA)—Speeches were exchanged between His Excellency American President George Bush and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait, after their meeting tonight. [passage omitted]

In reply, His Highness the amir of the State of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, gave the following speech:

In the name of God the merciful and the compassionate, Mr. President, it gives me pleasure to meet with you again, but this time on the soil of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is dear to us and which is friendly to all.

Despite the fact that this meeting takes place in tragic circumstances for my people and my country, we still find consolation in the honorable position of the international community on our cause. This is particularly so in regard to the Security Council, whose position represents a historic turning point in relations between nations and peoples, seen in the unanimous commitment to the United Nations Charter.

I am duty bound to praise the decisive role played by the Government and the people of the United States of America in standing up to aggression and standing against it. This American stand was not born out of nothing. You are children of your ancestors, who were the early settlers who centuries ago chose to risk and endanger their lives by emigrating to a distant and unknown world rather than submit to oppression and the

chaining of freedom. Thus, they began a tradition of standing up to injustice and aggression.

Their hopes in building a free world rejecting humiliation and tyranny have been realized. It has become a shelter for all who love freedom. Today, grandchildren reflect the historic passage of their predecessors, in order to disperse the darkness cast by the shadows of dictatorship and tyranny on the land of the free. This is true continuation of the tradition and heritage of their predecessors.

Mr. President, sorrow grips our hearts with each passing day at the increasing suffering of our citizens and of residents at home who are nationals of other states. They have been overcome by the darkness of Iraqi tyranny. They have been exposed to inhuman treatment to the extent that they are deprived of medicine and food. [passage omitted]

Visits Military Units, Departs

LD2211193490 Riyadh Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Excerpt] U.S. President George Bush this morning visited U.S. Air Force squadrons deployed in the eastern region and met men of the squadrons. Later his excellency left King 'Abd-al-'Aziz airbase in Dhahran to inspect U.S. land and naval forces deployed in the Kingdom and the Arabian Gulf waters. His excellency was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad-Bin-Fahd-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, amir of the eastern region, their highness the princes, and senior officials.

His excellency later arrived at the positions of U.S. land forces and supporting units deployed on the Saudi front. His excellency met the men of the forces.

His Excellency later arrived at the positions of U.S. land forces and supporting units deployed on the Saudi front. His excellency met the men of the forces.

His Excellency George Bush this afternoon inspected the aircraft Carrier Nassau, which is deployed in the Arabian Gulf waters. His excellency met the men working on the carrier and the U.S. units deployed in the Gulf region. Later President George Bush inspected the command center of the Marine forces deployed on the eastern coast of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where he met officers of the command.

His Excellency President Bush returned this evening to King 'Abd-al-'Aziz airbase in Dhahran. He was welcomed at Dhahran International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad Bin- Fahd-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, amir of the eastern region, their highness the princes, and senior civilian and military officials.

U.S. President George Bush left Dhahran this evening after a two-day visit to the Kingdom, during which he held talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy places. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets Baker on Arrival in Jeddah

LD2211175490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1739 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 22 Nov (SPA)—His Excellency U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived this evening.

He was welcomed at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport [in Jeddah] by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and several officials.

King Fahd Briefed on Defensive Military Measures

LD2211231290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received in his office in al-Salam Palace yesterday His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general—who was accompanied by the chief of general staff, Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, and Staff General His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin 'Abd al-Aziz, the commander of the joint forces [words indistinct], commander of naval forces.

The custodian of the two holy mosques briefed them on the nature of the current situation in the Gulf in the light of the political and military developments being witnessed in the region. In this context, His Royal highness Sultan Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz and the military commanders gave the king an assessment of the situation and the military measures that have been taken in the defense positions.

United Arab Emirates

President Zayid Receives USSR's Belonogov

JN2111135690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1156 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Nov (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates president his highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet deputy foreign minister and President Mikhail Gorbachev's envoy.

The discussion during the meeting dealt with a review of the latest developments in the region in light of the crisis emanating from the continued Iraqi occupation of the fraternal state of Kuwait and the efforts underway to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on the immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy.

The meeting was attended by his highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister; Shaykh Surur Bin-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, head of the President's Office; Rashid 'Abdallah, foreign minister; and Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Belonogov Urges Iraq Deadline

JN2211151390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Nov (WAKH)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov has reaffirmed his country's position on the regional problems created by Iraq through its invasion of Kuwait. He said that the Soviet Union's position is firm and unchanged. He went on to say that the USSR believes that Iraq's annexation of Kuwait is totally unacceptable, that Iraq should withdraw its troops from Kuwait unconditionally, that the legitimate Kuwaiti Government should be reinstated, that Kuwait should go back to being an independent and sovereign state as it was before the invasion, and that Kuwaiti nationals should be allowed to return to their homeland.

Belonogov said that he saw an identity of views between the USSR and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said he was happy about this identity of views, "which confirms the soundness of the Soviet position toward the crisis."

The Soviet envoy noted that the objective behind the dispatch of Soviet envoys to the region is to get a feeling for the prevailing situation in light of the Arab leaders' positions toward the crisis and to see what role the Soviet Union can play.

In an exclusive statement to WAM, the Soviet envoy said that his talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan touched on the foreign hostages in Iraq. He said that the issue does not pose a problem to the USSR, despite the hardships and difficulties facing the Soviet nationals there who are tying to obtain exit visas.

The Soviet official confirmed that his country rejected Iraq's offer to release hostages over a three-month period beginning 25 December. He asked Iraq to release all foreigners immediately.

Asked how the Gulf crisis can be resolved peacefully, given Iraq's refusal to accept international resolutions that demand a troop withdrawal, Aleksandr Belonogov replied that the USSR believes that the crisis can be resolved peacefully and diplomatically, "with the understanding that other options will not be ruled out."

Belonogov added: "Our position is that we should exhaust all means to achieve a political solution, as well as all the ways that could secure an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, before we take hold of other options." He added that there are several ways to achieve a peaceful solution; one of these is the economic blockade. He went on to say: "It hurts us to say that the economic blockade has begun to affect Iraq. However, time is needed to enable this blockade to force an Iraqi withdrawal."

The Soviet envoy expressed the belief that the international political consensus against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is one of the means that can secure a peaceful solution. He stressed that this consensus must maintain its force and momentum so that it will be unmoved. He also said that it was necessary to explore other ways to achieve a peaceful solution.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister told WAM: The USSR is leaving the door open for dialogue with Iraqi leaders. A number of Soviet officials have visited Baghdad. Likewise, two Iraqi deputy prime ministers have visited Moscow. He added: "We are using various means of communication to apply positive pressure on Baghdad to convince it of the need to withdraw from Kuwait." He said that Soviet officials, led by the Soviet president, have discussed with U.S. officials the idea of having a debate on the Gulf crisis at the UN Security Council [UNSC] to pass a new resolution with the endorsement of the five permanent members of the UNSC.

In reply to a question on whether the objective of this meeting would be to discuss the military option, the Soviet envoy said: "I have not talked exactly of a military option. However, a strongly worded warning setting a deadline for withdrawal from Kuwait should be addressed to Iraq."

The Soviet envoy declined to provide further details on this deadline. He only said that the UNSC members will agree on it. He added: "One way or another, we should persuade Saddam Husayn to withdraw. Likewise, we should convince the Iraqi people of the need for a withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait."

When asked what his country's position would be if the peaceful efforts to make Iraq withdraw from Kuwait were to fail, the Soviet envoy said that the UN Charter is clear on this; the UNSC would then make the proper decision.

Asked whether his country opposes the military option, Belonogov said: "We do not rule out the military option."

He stated that during his tour of the region he sensed that the states in the region were determined that Kuwaiti recover its sovereignty. He added: "All parties want a peaceful solution. However, I also found out that the military option would be necessary if a peaceful solution is not attained."

When asked if President Mikhail Gorbachev intends to visit the Middle East, the Soviet envoy said that there are no current plans for such a visit. Nevertheless, he stated that the Soviet leadership is concerned about the Gulf crisis. He also asserted that Soviet leaders are making efforts and exploring all means to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Gives Message to Shaykh Zayid

JN2211123290 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Emirian President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from

SFRY President Borisav Jovic dealing with cooperation and friendly relations between the two countries and ways to promote them. The message was conveyed by Branimir Rajkovic, minister of state for economic affairs, who was received by his highness the Emirian president this morning. [passage omitted]

Yugoslav Envoy Arrives in Abu Dhabi 20 Nov

LD2111104190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1954 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 20 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Government official Branimir Pajkovic arrived today in Abu Dhabi, on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates. Pajkovic is carrying a message from president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia Borisav Jovic for U.A.E. President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, which he is to deliver tomorrow.

Today in Abu Dhabi, Pajkovic met with U.A.E. minister of economy and trade Sayf Bin-'Ali al-Jarwan and with him discussed the current situation in the Gulf region, specifically the negative effects of the crisis on the economies of individual countries, among which Yugoslavia.

Pajkovic and Bin-'al-Jarwan agreed that favorable conditions have been created for promoting cooperation, especially economic, between the two friendly and Nonaligned countries.

Yugoslav Government member Pajkovic leaves the U.A.E. for Oman, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. In Saudi Arabia, he is expected to meet Kuwaiti Government officials.

Discusses Cooperation

JN2111054490 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 20 (GNA)—UAE Economy and Trade Minister Sayf al-Jarwan held talks today with Yugoslav Minister of State for Economic Affairs Branimir Pajkovic.

The talks covered ways to boost cooperation in the economic, trade and investment areas.

Al-Jarwan said he explained the UAE's economic policy laid down by President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and the law which aim to set up balanced economic ties with other states.

He also briefed the Yugoslav minister on investment opportunities in the UAE and its strategic location for trade.

Pajkovic in turn explained the changes in his country, especially its shifting to market economy.

The two sides agreed on the importance of holding more meetings, exchanging visits and organising exhibitions.

Yemen

U.S. Secretary of State Baker Visits

Arrives 22 Nov

JN2211124290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1210 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a visit to our country. He was received by [name indistinct] and a representative for the Presidency Protocol Office [passage indistinct].

Confers With Salih

JN2211210890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker this afternoon. Baker conveyed to the brother chairman a message from President George Bush on bilateral relations, areas of bilateral cooperation, and developments in the current crisis in the Gulf region.

The secretary of state briefed the brother chairman on the U.S. position on the crisis. For his part, the brother chairman stressed our country's constant and principled stand on the crisis based on the need to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis and to avoid the military option, since it will have devastating effects on the region. He explained that a war will make all parties losers and will threaten world peace, stability, and peace. He said that a war would also jeopardize all interests in the region. He stated that Yemen will continue to make all efforts with brothers and friends to find ways to end the crisis peacefully in such a way as to guarantee the consolidation of stability and peace in the region.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani; Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs; John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state; and Charles Dunbar, U.S. ambassador in Sanaa.

Following the meeting, brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Secretary of State Baker answered questions from national and foreign correspondents.

The chairman explained that the talks with James Baker dealt with the Gulf crisis and Yemeni-U.S. relations. He described our country's relations with the United States as good, adding that no problem mars these relations; however, he added, perhaps there are differences in viewpoints on the means of tackling the problem in the Gulf. He said: Nevertheless, efforts will continue. Yemen has conveyed its viewpoint to Secretary of State Baker and listened to the ideas of the U.S. Government on what it intends to do at the UN Security Council. The issue is still under discussion by the two sides and will (?resume) soon.

On our country's position on the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula and whether this has had any effect on his talks with Baker, the brother chairman said: We held talks with James Baker on the overall issues in the region, including the U.S. presence in the Peninsula and the Gulf. On behalf of the American Administration, as he explained to the national and foreign correspondents, James Baker promised that these forces would return home immediately after the end of the crisis. We, in principle, have declared or objection to the foreign presence in the region because Yemen's view of the crisis is that it must be resolved within the Arab and Islamic family without the intervention of foreign troops. This is because we believe that the foreign presence has complicated the crisis and not contributed toward its solution.

The brother president emphasized that it was necessary to work for a peaceful solution of the crisis in order to steer the region away from a destructive war. He added that this war will be detrimental to all parties, be it Iraq or Kuwait, the Gulf countries, or us, the neighboring states, and even to the United States and the foreign forces in the region. All will be losers. I do not believe that anyone will emerge victorious from this battle.

On the so-called hostages in Iraq, the brother president said: Concerning the hostages or so-called guests of Iraq, we have been informed through the various media and through Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's envoy that Iraq decided to release all the guests present in Iraq on the Christmas holiday and over the next three months. Iraq also undertook the initiative to release the first batch of more than 200 German nationals who will be transferred to Germany within the next two days.

For his part, Secretary of State Baker said he was happy to have visited the Republic of Yemen and met with brothers Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and also the brothers foreign minister and minister of state for foreign affairs. He said that he discussed Yemeni-American relations with them, as well as a rigorous and detailed discussion on the Gulf crisis. He said Yemen agrees with the United States on some points, especially with regard to the UN Security Council resolutions on the crisis. He emphasized that there still remains certain points and details that should be discussed.

The secretary of state said: Allow me also to add that both of us, the United States and the Republic of Yemen, would like to reach a political solution to the crisis. How can we arrive at such a peaceful solution? There may be some points of difference on a political solution.

He expressed his gratitude for the hospitality and warm reception he received from the Yemeni leadership.

Ends Visits

JN2211185290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1832 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Sanaa this evening following a short visit to our country during which he conveyed a message to Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, from U.S. President George Bush on bilateral relations and regional and international issues, primarily the Gulf crisis.

James Baker also met with a number of brother officials. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and the U.S. ambassador in Sanaa.

DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives in Sanaa 21 Nov

JN2211072690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], arrived in Sanaa last night on a visit of several days to our country. He will meet with a number of brother officials. In a statement to SABA', he said the visit comes at a crucial and historical moment in the life of our Arab nation, pointing out the challenges to the Arab countries from the ocean to the Gulf.

Envoy Views Chairmanship of Security Council

JN2211133890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Telephone conversation with 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, permanent UN envoy in New York; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Ambassador: Next month, Yemen will be in charge of the periodic presidency of the UN Security Council. Are you looking forward to a specific role that Yemen can play in that period, especially concerning the Gulf crisis?

[Al-Ashtal] First of all, the presidency of the Council for Yemen next month will enable us, along with the other members of the Council, to hold consultations and to pursue the actions of the Council and the resolutions it adopted in the past. Naturally, the president of the Council is continuously under the authority of the Council. In this context, our delegation will work, in cooperation with others, to explore all avenues leading to implementation of the Council's resolutions and to maintain the Council's satisfactory performance.

[Reporter] The United States is holding consultations with the Security Council member-states to secure a resolution permitting the use of force against Iraq. What is Yemen's position on this issue?

[Al-Ashtal] Since the eruption of the Gulf crisis, Yemen has adopted an unequivocal stance; namely, that we want this crisis to be settled peacefully and within the

Arab context. This position will always govern the measures that will be adopted by the Yemeni delegation at the Security Council. On this basis, also, we will clearly support any plans leading to a peaceful solution. Similarly, any plans against a peaceful solution, or that might lead to military solutions, naturally, will not agree with the Yemeni position.

[Reporter] This means that you oppose a resolution of this kind?

[Al-Ashtal] It is difficult for me to say for the time being, because we do not have any resolution before us at this moment. In fact, all talk is about ideas. When a paper is submitted to us, we will consider it. Certainly, however, our constant position is to work on the basis of finding a peaceful solution within the Arab context, with international participation. However, at all events, we have defined our stance against any military action because we believe any military solution will spark off a disaster in the region.

[Reporter] Do you think the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Sanaa falls within this context?

[Al-Ashtal] I cannot tell. It might.

[Reporter] Then, do you expect a resolution to be issued by the Security Council allowing the use of force before the end of this month, that is, when the United States's presidency of the Council expires?

[Al-Ashtal] I really cannot tell. However, the press indicates that there is no general consensus on recourse to the use of force for the time being.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador: What about the Security Council discussions on the occupied territories?

[Al-Ashtal] There is a draft resolution before the Council at the moment calling for the presence of a UN force there to protect Palestinians. This project is still under discussion. It is expected to be put up for a vote this week. We, the advocates of this project, have asked for it to be put to the vote. We are awaiting the Council's session for this purpose.

[Reporter] There are reports about an envoy of the UN secretary general being sent to the occupied territories outside the context of Security Council resolutions. What is your opinion regarding the mission of this envoy?

[Al-Ashtal] The UN secretary general has said that he welcomes the invitation he received to send his envoy, Claude Aime, to the occupied territories. The statement issued yesterday, however, clearly stated that the UN secretary general will not send the envoy unless the Security Council discusses this issue, that is, after a resolution is issued. Therefore, there is no relation between the Council's actions toward the situation in the occupied territories and this visit, which is in reply to an invitation by the Israeli side.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, Yemen's permanent UN envoy.

[Al-Ashtal] Thank you, Sir.

Iraq's 'Aziz Departs Following Visit

JN2111145490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq, left Sanaa this morning following a short visit during which he conveyed a message to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, from his brother President Saddam Husayn.

He was seen off by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs; a representative of the presidency's Protocol Office; and brother 'Abd-al-Hakim al-Rasuli, ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Sanaa.

Le Pen Leaves With European Nationals 22 Nov

JN2211120990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French National Front, and his delegation left Baghdad this morning at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Le Pen expressed pleasure and happiness for his and his delegation's meeting with President Saddam Husayn. He praised the Iraqi leadership's decision to allow foreign guests to leave Iraq in batches as of 25 December and over a period of three months.

He stressed that the French people support negotiations and diplomatic dialogue to solve all problems in the Arab region, to bring comprehensive peace there, and to avoid the scourge of destructive war in the region. He said his visit to Iraq gave impetus to the promotion of relations between the peoples of the two friendly countries.

In an indication of the importance President Saddam Husayn attaches to the European Parliament, the leader president ordered that Mr. Le Pen and his delegation be allowed to accompany a large number of European nationals for Strasbourg, the capital of Europe [as received].

The initiative is part of efforts to ease tension, which made it possible for the French people who were in Iraq to return to their country.

Mr. Le Pen played a major role in those efforts with his active calls for peace and negotiations.

Thanksgiving Feast Held for U.S. Nationals

JN2211205790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—Several American nationals hosted by the Iraqi people have praised President Saddam Husayn's initiative to allow their relatives to visit them in Iraq and celebrate Thanksgiving Day with them. In statements to INA, the American nationals expressed deep gratitude to President Saddam Husayn for granting them the opportunity to meet their relatives. They stated that this initiative is seen as a positive step to achieve a just peace in the region. [passage omitted]

A big Thanksgiving Day feast was held for the American nationals hosted by the Iraqi people. It was attended by the relatives of the guests and the American Red Cross Society delegation.

More on Celebration

JN2211181290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] Mammoth demonstrations were staged all over Iraq today in protest against U.S. President Bush's visit to Saudi Arabia. Demonstrators saw the visit as support for the Israeli prime minister's statement that Israel's borders extend from the sea to the river. Slogans demanded the withdrawal of the American forces from the land of the Arabs.

On Thanksgiving Day, Iraq organized a celebration for the benefit of the American nationals who are prevented from leaving. The Baghdad celebration was attended by Mr. Steven Richard, deputy president of the American Red Cross society, who arrived in Baghdad yesterday. In a speech, Mr. Richard wished the peoples of the world peaceful and free life and thanked the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. He told us that the Jordanian Red Crescent Society played a supporting role.

The Americans in Iraq celebrated Thanksgiving in Baghdad, Kirkuk, and al-Basrah. The celebrations were attended by American women who came to Iraq to visit their husbands. Talking to some Americans, I found them optimistic because of Iraq's declaration that they will be allowed to leave as of 25 December. They said that allowing them to contact their families by telephone was a good thing.

Iraq's political activity is continuing. President Saddam Husayn's envoys are continuing to deliver his letters to Arab leaders. It should be noted that Oman, Somalia, and Djibouti have been among states visited by these envoys.

'Source' on U.S. Fears of Families' Visits

JN2211183490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1803 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—An official source at the Culture and Information Ministry has ridiculed a statement issued by the U.S. Department of State in which it said that American men might be detained if they accepted Iraq's offer to visit their relatives held by the Government of Baghdad.

In a statement to INA, the source said that the U.S. Administration and its diplomatic institutions are really losing a great deal of their humanity every single day. It seems that they are trying to close all doors to contacts not only with Arabs, but also among the American families hosted by the Iraqi people.

The source stated that the families that will visit Iraq on Christmas and the New Year will find more appreciation and respect from the sons of Iraq, who are known for their nobility and generosity.

Concluding the statement, the Iraqi source noted that the visiting families will also carry beautiful memories of great Iraq—the Iraq of civilization, glory, and history—which today embodies values that all peoples of the world have learned since the days of old.

'Guests' Grateful for Initiative To Free Them

JN2311100990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—Iraq's foreign national guests, including British and American nationals, have praised Iraq's initiative to allow Iraq's guests to travel to their countries as of the 25th of the next month.

In statements to INA on their celebration of Thanksgiving, the guests affirmed that this initiative has won their high respect and appreciation.

Engineer John Laydon [name as received], a British national, said that Iraq, through its initiative, has managed to thwart all the western media propoganda. He added that the British public opinion does not want a war against Iraq, and the world has to establish peace through negotiations, which do not require all this massing of troops.

Wigard Lilaf [name as received], an American citizen, expressed his joy over Iraq's new initiative of allowing foreigners to leave for their countries. He said: I have worked in a number of Arab countries, one of which was Iraq, for seven years. I have yet to find a smarter, more pleasant and stronger people than the Iraqis. He affirmed that the U.S. public opinion does not want war and hopes that the crisis will end in dialogue and negotiations because the current trend of the American people is with peace.

British citizen David Shatok [name as received] said: I have read President Saddam Husayn's press interviews, analyses, and clear presentations of the Gulf crisis and the other problems in the region. In my opinion it is a disgrace to leave Palestine without a solution and the Palestinian people without a homeland. The question of Palestine should have been solved years ago.

Former Army Chief of Staff Reportedly Executed

LD2211183990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1751 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] London, 22 Nov (SPA)—Sources close to the Iraqi Army say that Saddam Husayn has executed [former] Iraqi Army Chief of Staff Nizar al-Khazraji, who was recently dismissed.

A statement issued in London by the opposition Iraqi New al-Ummah Party said that al-Khazraji and seven other officers were executed a few days ago after being accused of attempting to depose the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad.

Saddam Comments in Visit to Dhi Qar Governorate

JN2211093290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has visited Dhi Qar Governorate. He met Dhi Qar Governor Taha Yasin Husayn; comrade Yunus Mahmud al-Shutub, secretary of Dhi Qar branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; comrade branch officers; and governorate officials. [passage omitted]

The following are President Saddam Husayn's remarks in Dhi Qar Governorate:

We have not met the people in Dhi Qar for a long time. It is their right that we meet with them. If we could have dealt with all the correspondence of Hamid Hammadi [not further identified] and [Head of Iraqi Presidential Office] Ahmad Husayn, we would have spent all day with the people in the towns and the countryside. This would be better for one's soul than the daily business of state and constant reading. However, it seems that state affairs can only be managed through correspondence, meetings, and following up. But, it would be better to see the people in the field instead of working in an office.

Our people are one. God is on the side of the Iraqis, the Arabs, and the believers. God willing, these things will become sweet memories of the past and the enemy will, God willing, only reap disgrace and defeat.

Last night and this morning, I heard comments carried by Western radios, particularly Voice of America, whose true nature has been exposed after hiding it for a long time from Arabs and believers by saying it only presents objective facts. However, we have noticed that it has started to lie and become inaccurate. Commenting on the news report in which we said we would mobilize seven new divisions and a number of fighters, with a total of more than quarter million fighters, they brought in someone, whom they called an expert, to say that he does not think that force will add any new capability to the Iraqi Army. What additional power will those 100,000 soldiers, who are still in the United States, add to the occupation troops in the Arabian Peninsula, if more than quarter million fighters do not add any capability to the Iraqi Army?

They said they were reservist troops with no combat ability. I told them that every Iraqi has years of combat ability—10-years of ability. They ignore the fact that seven divisions in that force are among the elite of our regular divisions and are present with their full weight and complete formations, in addition to 60,000 fighters who have more than a decade of fighting experience and training. Those are peasants whom we discharged from the Army for the agricultural season, and we said they

would return in December, because the main task in the agricultural season is plowing and seeding. The other, lighter tasks can be left to their families to take care of for some time. And, they say those people do not know how to fight.

We beseech God that there will be no fighting. However, if they go forward evil, they will see all their calculations turned upside down.

Praised be to God, the men of Iraq are many. They fight on behalf of all believers in the world, and not only on behalf of Iraq. As our countrymen say: "If we open the doors, all the women will also fight." However, the men of Iraq are many, thanks be to God. May God bless them and strengthen their belief, willpower, and determination, God willing.

The truth speaks for itself and fights with its own intrinsic power, so, how will the situation be when it is backed by men who have faith in God and also dignity, honor, and faith? The consequence will, God willing, be in the favor of the faithful people.

Now, not only the Arabs and Muslims are with you, but also all the sincere believers in the world. Matters have gone so far that the people in America are demonstrating against war. The people in France and Britain are also demonstrating against war. Praised be to God, for all this is success from God, strength for the believers, and defeat for the polytheists and bad ones, God willing. It suffices that the people of Dhi Qar have their name in history, in addition to other common considerations they share with the Iraqis. The men of Dhi Qar are basically military men and we have governorates like Dhi Qar, Nineveh, and Maysan whose sons love militarism and their connection with it is profound. Nineveh and Dhi Qar are deep rooted in history. When this depth, along with its noble values, is evoked, it will be very effective.

Our steadfast people in the occupied territory, who are resisting Zionist tyranny with stones, would have been able to expel the Zionists from the land of Palestine with stones had they received $1 billion a year.

We used to approach them one by one and tell them: O people, we do not want anything for ourselves. When one seeks something for others, he hopes that people will be moved with zeal. We approached them one by one on the telephone directly at the end of the conference and told them: O people, take care of the Palestinians and Jordanians. We have done what we could, but their hands were frozen toward the Arab, the believer, and the honorable. Their money and gold were spent generously on despotism and colonialism, and these funds belong to the people and nation.

However, God wished the honorable people in Kuwait well, because man also needs to see honor done. That is, the Kuwaitis lost much of their self-esteem. By this I mean the citizens in the Kuwait Governorate, because their officials did not pave the road of honor, glory, faith, and strength for them. They always drove them along roads that brought them only evil, tragedies, and misdeeds. Many of them were tarnished, not out of their own will, not because they wanted to be useless, as is said in rural areas, but because they wanted to be in the leading class. However, their leaders made them useless, fall, and make mistakes.

The Arabs and Muslims have three holy places whose sanctity is acknowledged by all from the east to the west and north to south throughout this earth, in addition to other Muslim holy places. But these three are the foremost among them. They are the Mecca mosque; the tomb of the prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him; and Jerusalem. The three are now under occupation. The setback they inflicted on the Arab nation is a great one, but God the Almighty is always capable of defending His religion and the holy places, God willing.

I said I cannot imagine Ba'thists as anything but young people and I have reached the point that I can now only describe the Iraqis as young people, even if 90 years old.

Commenting on a remark made by a comrade concerning the position of Burkina Faso, the leader president said their position is honorable, like the position of their president.

On Egypt's position, the leader president said: We did this for the sake of Egypt and its people. Each one behaves according to his own qualities, and we did what our qualities dictated. Husni, on the other hand, has become addicted to shameless acts. We can understand the conduct of everyone else except this man. We, indeed, feel ashamed when the Iraqis tell us that we showed all this indulgence toward this man, and when they ask: Did you not know that Husni reached such a low level? But we tell our people again that we did this for the sake of our people in Egypt.

When we indulge this or that it is because we value our people in Egypt. Believers are virtuous. Thank God, there are many believers, whether in Egypt, Guinea, Mauritania, Iraq, or any other place.

You know that we, like you, eat our bread while on the move. We brought sandwiches with us like travelers. When we came and found no one in the governorate building, we said, this is a good chance to eat our sandwiches before people come and we go out to meet them.

The Dhi Qar people are good, and you know them. We fight and strike in the name of God, and we are optimistic. Help and strength comes from God, and the choice of the moment is also decided by God. This is why you see that some of those who come to visit us leave us impressed. One of them once told me that he had never seen or imagined the calmness that characterizes the Iraqis. I said: Do you know why the Iraqis are calm? Because they believe in God, are confident that they have a just cause, and those who have a just cause

will gain God's support, so why should they be afraid? It does not make any difference to the Iraqis when they hear them saying they will bring such and such forces to the Gulf.

But this no longer means anything to us, because, basically we do not want evil, we do not want war. We want peace, but with dignity, a peace that secures our full national and pan-Arab rights, our integrated and indivisible rights, with the liberation of Palestine before anything else. Those who are seeking an Arab, foreign, or any other solution should know that this is the solution: A full and comprehensive peace with the Arabs regaining their rights and the Iraqis having their rights recognized. After this, each side will stay in his place—you in your house and I in mine, as the popular saying goes. You stay in your house in dignity and faith and I stay in my house in dignity and faith. Everyone, I think, has an honorable interest in these principles. The honorable interest is clear here. Is it not all good, with blessings for the Arab, the Muslim, and all believers in God? It is all a gain for good, why do they not want it? Whoever does not want it is a traitor.

I say no to those who ask how can we link those two issues. There must be such a linkage. I hope God will hang anyone who does not want this linkage by his feet, like a donkey. So, why do you not establish this linkage, especially since the time is right? There are people involved who say Arab rights must be viewed from the perspective of right and justice. Some of those lying in wait for us say we will not establish such a linkage. They know that, by not establishing the linkage, the Palestinian question will remain standing and the conspiracy will continue.

When Shamir makes statements, no one speaks out to say this is an insult to international law, the international community, and international legitimacy. Such phrases, which they have begun to repeat now, are not being said by the United States or Bush, who is coming in search of forgiveness, may God not forgive him and disgrace him.

We work for ourselves, and when one works for himself, he is told: May God grant you strength. But, as the saying goes, he should not remind his kinfolk of the favor. You work for your own kinfolk. If someone working here is an English person, we would tell him: Thank you, we are indebted to you because you came from Great Britain to Dhi Qar to serve it. But, we will not say this to the son of Dhi Qar, Baghdad, and Mosul, or the son of Iraq and the Governorate of Kuwait who works here. With time, you will see that the citizens of the Governorate of Kuwait will begin to feel that they were taken out of darkness into the light. After living in a dark and contaminated small quagmire, the mammoth sea is now open for them—in glory, well-being, stability, and security.

If it is a question of those with contaminated money, why do they go to them? Why do they not come to pure and blessed money, which will be saved for those who want to build a structure under the canopy of great Iraq, which cannot be shaken by thunder because it is built on foundations of faith, and they will not have to worry about their money?. However, those who build a structure on filthy sands will always imagine that the earth underneath it will sink. On 2 August, the Earth sank and the Croesus of Kuwait did not even have time to pick up his aba. Evil cannot stand before right, because evil does not have perceptive eyes or the mind to guide it on the right path.

When our little children, uncles, and kinfolk—to whom we belong—see anything wrong with us, they must draw our attention to it. All Iraqis, from Zakho to the city of cities [al-Basrah], if they see anything wrong, they must change it. This is what we do inside ourselves, we forcefully change ourselves. We are Iraqis and we belong to the Iraqis. Now, the banner of the Iraqis is no longer only a national banner, but a banner for every sincere Arab and for every believer everywhere. Now, this banner is big. The responsibility has grown bigger and the space to fulfill that responsibility also grew bigger.

High glory can only be achieved through major sacrifices. For one to have high standing with God, he must have a deep faith, and deep faith requires a corresponding level of sacrifice and patience.

Regarding the building of schools in the marshland, the president said: The marshland is beautiful and we have to plan a beautiful place on its edges. When the marshland inhabitant finds out that the place is beautiful and is inhabited by his own fellow people whose hands are clean and whose children go to school and that their economic situation is good, he will begin to move to the edge of the marshland.

Henceforth, the people of Dhi Qar will not say that Saddam Husayn did not visit us. We have come to see them, because today Bush is supposed to go to a den ... thus, regrettably, defying Iraq. But we want to tell him that we are facing you with these people and will destroy you, no matter how poisonous your teeth are. Consequently, you should not underestimate these people, whose civilization is 6,000 years old, and who taught mankind the alphabet, which started here.

But not all those implicated wanted to be implicated, for there are those who do not know how they became involved. It is the good one who seeks an excuse for the weak one. Goodness lies in Iraq and in the faithful, God willing. Therefore, we seek to excuse the weak even before he himself asks us to. But when matters turn from weakness to treason, there will be no room for anyone's excuse. We know that some weak people were led out of fear of America and others, were in a state of need, or were lured by the money they saw. We should not be hard on these people. We should be hard on the betrayer. We must chase him, down to his grandchildren, and tell the sons of the Iraqis that he was a betrayer and should be chased down. Consequently, God willing, we wish that even those who strayed will return to the right path so that we will not brand them with treason forever. God

willing, there will only be very few betrayers and the banner of faith will continue to flutter proudly.

On the building of schools in the governorate, the president said: When they spoke to me about schools, we were occupied with the games of plotting and economic sabotage directly after the war. When I asked how much they cost, they said 4 or 5 billion [currency unspecified]. I told them we have just come out of war and we cannot spend such money. We discussed the matter and said this can only be done directly by brave people, depending on the sons of the people and party. They are the ones who carried out the job and built them at only a fraction of the scheduled cost and within a time none imagined would be enough to build such a large number of schools from the north to the south.

Saddam Visits Al-Basrah, Troops on Kuwaiti Front

JN2211193790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1913 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, over the past two days visited the Governorates of al-Basrah and Kuwait. After inspecting the conditions of the citizens in the al-Basrah Governorate, he visited the front of truth against false, where he met brave men from the IV and II Army Corps and men assigned difficult missions in the Command of the Presidential Guard Forces. After the gallant fighters confirmed the high morale of the men and their high standard in term of preparedness and readiness, the leader president gave appropriate instructions to the fighters, declaring that Iraq and its faithful men do not seek war. But, if fighting is imposed on them, they will fight in a way that will please friends and all believers and anger the infidels and evildoers, after which they will harvest defeat, disappointment, and loss. And God will be satisfied with His good slaves who fear no one in defending justice.

We draw the attention of the listeners to the fact that the Iraqi Republic Television will air a film on the visit tomorrow, Friday, God willing.

Nation Reacts to Bush Visit to Saudi Arabia

Demonstrators Protest

JN2211161290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1514 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad and governorates, 22 Nov (INA)—Angry mass demonstrations were staged throughout Iraq today to condemn Bush's arrival in the holy Arab land in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

In their demonstrations, the masses condemned Bush's visit which coincides with the Zionist enemy prime minister's declaration that the border of his entity extends from the sea to the river. The masses shouted slogans and raised banners stating that the coincidence of Bush's arrival with Shamir's declaration clearly reveals the reality and objectives of the American and Atlantic concentrations in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

The masses also said that Bush's visit and meeting with agents and traitors such as Fahd and Husni are only an attempt to raise the deteriorating morale of the U.S. Administration's mercenaries in their quest to harm great Iraq, which is being led toward the peaks of glory by President Saddam Husayn.

The Iraqi masses greeted the God-supported leader, President Saddam Husayn, pledging to his excellency that our valiant people will remain a solid steel wall against which all plots and attempts at aggression against lofty Iraq will founder.

The angry masses emphasized that by receiving Bush in the land of Islamic holy places, Fahd, the betrayer of the two holy mosques, confirms the imperialist design to control the oil wells and strike at Arab unity.

In their songs and chants, the masses said that the experienced Iraqi swords, led by the sword of the heroic leader President Saddam Husayn, and accompanied by the swords of the sons of the Arab nation from the Ocean to the Gulf will cut off the necks of all agents and traitors who accepted that the holy lands be desecrated and that lofty Iraq, the bastion of Arabism, be attacked. The angry masses reiterated that they are volunteering for jihad for the sake of the loftiness of the Arabs and Muslims and the expulsion of all greedy invaders from the occupied territories.

The masses set fire to an effigy of Bush and to the U.S. flag, thus expressing their denunciation and indignation as a result of Bush's presence in the land of Najd and Hejaz and the desecration of the holy land by him and his soldiers of aggression. The masses denounced the threats launched by a failing Bush to wage a war against Iraq and the Arab nation. The masses declared that great Iraq cannot be intimidated by threats.

Through their chants and songs, the masses hailed President Saddam Husayn's heroic confrontation of the fiercest imperialist U.S.-Zionist onslaught, pledging to his excellency to achieve further scientific advancement, which frightens, embitters, and perturbs the enemies. They said that all believers and all good Arabs and Muslims in the world stand alongside great Iraq.

Tour To Prevent 'Collapse'

JN2311112390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that if Bush believes that his forces' continuing occupation of the land of the Arabs and the Muslims will be met with silence or will become an Arab status quo, he is greatly mistaken and even more ignorant about the history of this nation.

The newspaper notes in an editorial today that the priority goal of the U.S. president's visit to the Arab region is to prevent the collapse of the agentry of Fahd and Husni—both of whom are suffering from deteriorating domestic situations as a result of their collaboration in the plot to invade the region and occupy the oil sources—as well as to bolster the collapsing morale of his forces and strengthen and bolster the internal U.S. front, which has been affected by a split. This places new burdens on his two servants, which weigh them down more heavily than before.

The newspaper says: Receiving Bush is another sin added to that of bringing the U.S. forces to the land of the holy shrines, since he is not the head of a stable country. He is the commander of the occupation forces in the region, visiting one country occupied by the weapons of his soldiers, and another, Egypt, a country stripped of its will and sovereignty.

It affirms that the U.S. president's visit to Fahd is the master's visit to his follower, and his visit to Husni is the master's visit to his servant.

The paper says: It is a confirmed fact that these two visits will have grave consquences on both Fahd and Husni and will increase their dilemma, perplexity, and deep involvement. With these two visits, Bush has added greater disgrace and humiliation to what they already have in the eyes of the Arabs. The Arab reaction to the visit was massive yesterday throughout the Arab world. It revealed the extent of the nation's anger and fury over the cunning visitor whose forces are desecrating the Muslim Qiblah [the direction to which Muslims turn in praying] and the great Prophet's tomb; these forces also publicly make light of the nation's feelings and beliefs and in the presence of witnesses.

The paper stresses that for the Iraqis the image, form, and details of the confrontation are known. They are on their land and among their Arab and Islamic nation ready to thwart the invaders, defeat them totally, and blow up their schemes aimed at seizing the nation's resources and robbing it of its legitimate pan-Arab rights in the interests of the Zionists and a bunch of small traitors who deposit their capital in western banks and institutions, in addition to revenues into the U.S. treasury from the Arab oil funds.

It affirms that the occupation forces will soon be defeated and all traitors will be crushed. We will make them taste the bitterness of their evil deeds when the hour comes—and we are awaiting it.

The newspaper concludes its article: Victory is ours; dignity is ours; and the road to Jerusalem is open before us. Nothing but shame, disgrace, and real defeat awaits the invaders after all believers have rallied to confront all the evil.

Commentary on Aims of Visit

JN2211152490 Baghdad Voice of Peace in English to Saudi Arabia 1240 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] To the American soldiers, good day. Listen to the voice of truth. In a few days' time [as heard], George Bush will be visiting you. The reason for this visit is not the sympathy he may feel towards you on the occasion of the Thanksgiving. The real reason is the publicity Bush is aiming at just in preparation for the coming elections for presidency, and in order to face the international pressures that he has, whether his relation with the Congress or with the American people in general. Criticism has accumulated ever so much from the various means of media, from the glamorous personalities—official and nonofficial. Furthermore, mass demonstrations of angry citizens are facing him wherever he goes, rejecting and protesting any American interference in a war that is not the affair of the American citizens. As for his wife, who is accompanying him in the visit, of course her target is presents of the Arab shaykhs and amirs. She maybe also wants to have her share of this stolen money from the real owners—the Arab people—just like others who preceded her in taking some of it.

Had Bush really sympathized with you, he would not have placed you in this one-way dangerous passage that may only lead to devastating war, to death. He would have left you safe and sound among your families and children. He would have. Thanks for listening. This is the Voice of Peace from Baghdad.

'Experienced Iraqi Fighters' Will Defeat Bush

JN2311102390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0709 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has affirmed that Bush's great defeat will come at the hands of the believers, the experienced Iraqi fighters, if he continues to be stubborn and explodes the war.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says that at this decisive and historic stage, we are witnessing a great battle between all believers and all evil, in which the Iraqis have chosen the position the believers' vanguard and scout while the U.S. Administration continues to occupy the position of the leader of infidels with the Zionists and colonialists, like Thatcher whose sun has set, and like the betrayer of the two mosques and the simpleminded Husni, who have forefeited their rights. This great battle affirms the nature of the greatest battle with all its minute details, and clearly indicates the defeats it will inflict on the infidels and their aggressive schemes, as well as the final victory for the believers and their noble and good project.

The newspaper recalls President Saddam Husayn saying that the number of believers from the ocean to the gulf is increasing and that the infidels, hypocrites, and invaders

are feeling worried before the great battle. He further added that the most important asset of the believers is to gather the good people and leaders among the nation and not seek the satisfaction of those who rallied their evil potentials against the honorable people and rights of our nation.

The newspaper adds: Like every honest vision, every day affirms what President Saddam Husayn said and predicted, such as the battle between the nation and its enemies. Events now affirm that the believers are on the increase and becoming stronger and more cohesive.

The newspaper notes that the voices of justice have begun to condemn Bush's policy and reject the option of war. They are adopting the view proposed by President Saddam Husayn, that the issues of the region are linked and that there is no solution to any of these issues without giving priority to the Palestine question.

Concluding its article, the newspaper stresses that the believers have greater power and stamina because God and justice are on their side and because they are armed with belief; whoever is armed with belief has victory as his share. Belief was and continues to be the road to victory.

The great defeat of Bush, who has been defeated by the American citizen in the elections [as received], will be at the hands of the believers, the experienced Iraqi fighters, if he insists on remaining stubborn and exploding the war. He and his army will be defeated in a way that will make the defeats of his predecessors in Korea, Vietnam, and the Bay of Pigs look small. If the companions of the elephant [the troops of Abraha the Abyssinian, who invaded Mecca with a large army] were defeated in the Arabian Peninsula 15 centuries ago, the modern companions of the elephant will also be defeated like their predecessors with God's power and the determination of the believers.

Military Source on Reaction to New Deployment

JN2111181690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1716 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. A spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command has stated the following:

In repeated statements by certain media quarters of the enemy of God and the believers—Bush—and some of his military sources today and yesterday in answer to the decision to mobilize more than a quarter million additional troops to face the adversaries of God, the enemies have tried to lie and to distort many facts. They even have said that the force mobilized is insignificant because, they say, it is comprised of troops that lack training and equipment.

To make the facts clear, we state: We have said we will mobilize seven divisions within this force. The seven divisions are from among our regular elite divisions, which do exist already. They are not part of the formations that are being formed now. They are also part of formations with a glorious history in the battlefield and long experience in training and fighting, including in the past 10 years.

These divisions will have more than 100,000 soldiers; add to this 60,000 troops who have been discharged temporarily from the Army to take part in the agricultural campaign for the winter season. They are all brave fighters from our dear countryside, who had the honor to accumulate broad experience and good training. The divisions will also have troops from three various age-groups who were discharged not long ago. All of them have seen action and have been trained well—technically and tactically.

As for the weapons, they are abundant and of good quality, and, above all, they are blessed at the hands of those who believe in the will of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

May God spare our people, nation, and humanity evil. Accursed be the criminals and those who betrayed the House of God and the tomb of His noble prophet.

Let the lowly know that, even before the Arab and Muslim believers rose up, our people in Iraq were an inexhaustible source of men to protect right and its people and to bolster faith and its arenas. We now have scores of additional regular divisions outside the main battlefield. We can mobilize them at the right place and at the time desired by God Almighty. The criminals will have to be accurate and avoid the path of evil. Otherwise, the perdition of evildoers is inevitable, God willing. God is the greatest.

Officials React to Remarks by Israel's Shamir

Ba'th Official Comments

JN2111151090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has said that the recent statements by Zionist enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir fall within the context of a hostile and expansionist scheme that reveals the organic links existing between this criminal scheme and the U.S. plan for aggression against Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Hamzah added that the frenzied statements by the Zionist prime minister confirm to the whole world the soundness and veracity of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. He declared that the grand conspiracy targeting Iraq and the Arab nation entail Zionist objectives, intentions, and ambitions. Moreover, this conspiracy exposes the strategic links existing between imperialist interests and world Zionism, Hamzah said.

Hamzah went on to say that these aggressive statements by Shamir clearly show his determination to maintain his occupation of Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories, and his expansionist plans to realize the Zionist dream to establish the so-called "Greater Israel."

Ramadan Calls for 'Jihad'

JN2111210890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and first deputy prime minister, has stated that the advocates of international legitimacy and those who trade with the slogans of international law should have their say and declare what they think of Shamir's statement that he will work to safeguard the Zionist entity's land extending from the sea to the river.

Commenting on remarks Zionist Prime Minister Shamir made on Sunday, Taha Yasin Ramadan told INA: Day after day, the intertwined links of the conspiracy being hatched against the Arab nation and its presence and future become clearer. The reference here is to the conspiratorial links masterminded and forged by the Zionists and the Americans alike, and also by their allies. He said that Shamir's statements and his declaration of Greater Israel at this point in time confirm that the strategic alliance existing between the Zionist entity, which is expanding and consecrating its occupation of Arab lands in Palestine, the Golan, and Lebanon, on the one hand, and the U.S. Administration, which has occupied Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], on the other, is operational.

The first deputy prime minister added that Shamir's clear statements and the silence maintained around them by those who are shedding crocodile tears over international legitimacy within the U.S. and British administrations and their allies and slaves, have confirmed the falsehood of their pretense regarding international legitimacy. He added: This has shown that they are using this pretense to cover up their pursuit of aggressive and expansionist policies which are designed to control the rights of people, first of all the Arab people. He pointed out that Shamir received the green light from the U.S. and British administrations to declare his entity's position, in defiance of international legitimacy, and to reiterate his rejection of all UN Security Council resolutions over the past 43 years, calling for a Zionist withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The RCC member went on to say: The remarks by the Zionist enemy prime minister are a field test for those who trade with international legitimacy and hold world opinion in disdain. The covers have been lifted from the Zionist-U.S-British alliance and its collusion with the dwarf Arab rulers, headed by agent Husni and traitor Fahd, who have failed to react to Shamir's statements. Taha Yasin Ramadan asked: What would agent Husni say to the statements made by his close friend Shamir? Where will he place his pretense on his so-called efforts and interest to safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people? What says traitor Fahd, who has opened the gates of Mecca and al-Madinah as well as the gates of the entire lands of Najd and Hejaz to U.S. troops and their allies, so that they can help the Zionists realize their strategic dream of establishing an entity extending from the Nile to the Euphrates? Where will he place the slogans that he used to mislead the Arabs and Muslims concerning the defense of the Palestine question and his promises of jihad to liberate Palestinian territories, to secure the return of their displaced rightful owners, and to perform prayers at the holy al-Aqsa Mosque?

The first deputy prime minister went on to say: The conscience of the dwarf rulers, as well as that of Arab and non-Arab rulers who are servants of the United States, have not been shaken by Shamir's insolent statements, which defy international law. These people have not demanded that international legitimacy be applied against the Zionist government. They have not acted swiftly to pass resolutions enforcing a blockade against it, or sent troops to expel the Zionists and ensure the repatriation of the displaced Palestinian people. He said that they have remained silent because the U.S. Administration has said nothing against Shamir, and also because the administration formulated these statements of his, as well as all previous Zionist resolutions.

The RCC member asserted that Iraqi leaders and people, as well as the Arab masses, have not been surprised by Shamir's provocative and hostile statements. He added: Statements similar to those made by the Zionist government these days have been made by former Zionist governments over the past 43 years to confirm the Zionist entity's expansionist and aggressive policy, which enjoys the support of the U.S. and British administrations.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that divine, national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian duty dictates that all Arabs and Muslims declare jihad and their readiness to fall as martyrs fighting the Zionist and American infidels and their allies who are occupying the chaste Arab sacred places. The Arabs and Muslims are also urged to revolt against the treasonous rulers who have placed the Arab nation's destiny and future, as well as the sanctities of Arabs and Muslims, in the hands of the Zionist and American enemies.

Concluding his statement, the first deputy prime minister said: The Zionist-American alliance with the treasonous rulers of Najd and Hejaz and agent Husni has been exposed is a fact that has placed the Arabs and Muslims on the verge of a holy jihad which they have long awaited to avenge Arab and Islamic sanctities. As for the faithful mujahids belonging to the nation of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, they will hasten to fight the forces of evil, aggression, and tyranny; uproot the pillars of conspiracy, agentry, and treason from Arab lands; and topple the regimes of the Arab nation's betrayers, such as agent

Husni, Fahd, betrayer of the two holy mosques, and other puppets, so as to liberate the Arab lands and defend Arab will, dignity, and wealth. The objective is to keep Arab lands and protect the sanctities of Muslims and Christians from the filth of traitors, agents, and occupiers.

Assembly Reacts

JN2111143290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—The National Assembly has condemned the hostile statements made by Zionist enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

In a statement issued today, the Assembly urged the Arab nation's masses, parties, organizations, and governments to take a noble pan-Arab position to confront the tyrannical aggression led by the U.S. Administration against the Arab nation, foremost among which is Iraq. The following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Nay, we hurl the truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold, falsehood doth perish! [part of a Koranic verse] O sons of our proud people; O masses of our glorious Arab nation; O free men and strugglers everywhere: Day after day, the truth and dimensions of the grand conspiracy led by the U.S. Administration against the Arab nation becomes clearer. This conspiracy seeks to strike at the pulsating heart of Arabism, the leader of the march of renaissance, and the forger of contemporary Arab history. It also seeks to secure the occupation of Arab oil wells and to establish permanent bases for U.S. imperialism on Arab lands and waters to achieve the prime objective which is to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and the entire Palestinian presence and to unleash the Zionist arm so that it can consummate the crime of the age for which it has been making preparations. The reference here is to the complete Judaization of Arab Palestine in terms of land and people, to the obliteration of its whole Palestinian history, and to the displacement of the Palestinian people so that they can be replaced with Jewish immigrants in order to prepare to launch the second phase of the bloody and terrorist crime of the age which is the realization of the racist Zionist dream regarding the establishment of Greater Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. Iraq has always warned against the dangers of this lowly Zionist scheme, which enjoys the full support and backing of the U.S. Administration and the Thatcher government, a scheme that threatens the whole of mankind, not only Arabs.

The latest moves in the Arabian Gulf made by the U.S. Administration through its shameful invasion of the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and its undermining of the Arab way of life came to reveal the truth about the grand conspiracy targeting the Arab nation at the hands of the U.S. Administration and the racist Zionist enemy as well as the nation's betrayers involved, such as Husni and the betrayer of the two holy mosques. Terrorist Zionist enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in his latest statement that the borders of his entity extend from the sea to the River Jordan.

While expressing their total condemnation and denunciation of these hostile statements that define the framework of the lowly conspiracy targeting the Arab nation at this critical phase, the representatives of the Iraqi people appeal to the Arab nation's masses, parties, organizations, and governments to take a noble pan-Arab position to confront the links of the all-out aggression spearheaded by the U.S. Administration so that our nation can confirm that it is a nation that produced civilizations, glories, divine faiths, and a rich human history, and that it is also capable of confronting the criminals of the age, the forgers of history, and the terrorist leaders.

The Iraqi people's representatives reassert that the adoption of the historic peace initiative proclaimed by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August will deter the scheme of evil and aggression, confirm the Arab identity of beloved Palestine, foil all suspect schemes, and achieve comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with international legitimacy, the UN resolutions, and the national interests of the Arab nation.

The succession of events has revealed the reality of hostile intentions and confirmed that, in the region, there are only two situations: one, the complete adoption of pan-Arab issues, the readiness to defend the nation—its history, civilization, present, future, and existence—and the comprehensive pan-Arab awakening led by Iraq and those standing in its trench, including the honest Arabs and the strugglers and messengers of humanity; and two, the attack and aggression against the Arab nation and the attempt to fragment it, cut its limbs, and plunder its resources under the leadership of the U.S. Administration and those standing with it in its trench, which is hostile to the Arabs and the will of peace and humanity, including the Zionists, the colonialists, and the betrayers of the Arab nation.

The Arab nation is nowadays passing through the most critical test in its long history—a test within whose framework we will determine whether to be or not to be. The hesitant Arabs must say the word. The enemy's evil plots are daily increasing in intensity and savageness and the racist Zionist enemy, which has violated all international charters, has ignored the international community's resolutions, and has continued its terrorist practices, is today standing at the ready under the shadow of the U.S. spears invading the land of Najd and Hejaz to usurp more Arab territories, end the Palestinian Arab presence, and achieve its desperate and terroristic bloodthirsty dream from the Nile to the Euphrates. Meanwhile, the Iraq of leader Saddam Husayn, together with the valiant men who are willing to sacrifice their blood and souls for the Arab nation, and who are full of belief and zealousness, are preparing to write down the lines of glory, pride, and loftiness for all Arabs in the crucial battle.

The Iraqi National Assembly, while urging the Arab nation to play its historic battle to confront the savage conspiracy, is placing itself at the head of the nation's soldiers in defense of its crucial issues. On this occasion, it stresses the soundness and importance of linking all problems in the region and the importance of discussing them all according to the same bases and principles to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution for them, as stated in the initiative of President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, on 12 August 1990.

Glory and victory to all Arabs. Shame and disgrace to the betrayers of the nation. Forge ahead.

Kuwait Curfew Lifted After 'Normal' Life Returns

JN2311104190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—It has been announced in the Governorate of Kuwait that the curfew has been lifted after life returned to normal there. The AL-NIDA' newspaper, which is published in the governorate, reported in its issue published today, citing an official source, that this decision was made to confirm the return of normal life to the govenorate after the branch was returned to the origin.

279 Iraqi Prisoners Arrive From Iran 22 Nov

JN2211151690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1449 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—After their release by the Iranian authorities, 279 Iraqi prisoners arrived here this evening as part of the agreement recently reached between the two countries in Baghdad to exchange convicts whose cases had been referred to the judiciary.

Yesterday Iraq released 232 Iranian prisoners, who left for Tehran by air.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Visits to Yemen, Oman

JN2311082390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman, returned to Baghdad at dawn today.

The president's envoy conveyed messages to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id dealing with bilateral relations and developments in the Arabian Gulf region.

Levi Discounts Absence From Bush Agenda

TA2211070890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Yesterday in Paris, Foreign Minister David Levi met with the Greek prime minister, the Turkish foreign minister, and other European statesmen with whom he attained agreements on closer cooperation in what were termed delicate spheres. Tamar Golan, MA'ARIV's reporter in Paris, spoke with the foreign minister:

[Begin recording] [Levi] I invited him [the Greek prime minister] and he accepted the invitation; he was very glad, and he said he would be happy to visit a friendly country, as he regards Israel. He said: Times have changed; unlike the past, when the policy was one of hostility toward Israel, you now have a friend in Greece.

[Golan] President Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, are leaving for the Middle East and are scheduled to visit numerous countries, but not Israel. You yourself have not met here with Secretary of State James Baker, either. Does this have any political significance?

[Levi] No, this has no political significance. I met with Baker recently, and we exchange letters. Although they will not visit Israel, Israel is in touch with the United States through consultations and joint work with the most senior political echelons in the United States.

[Golan] Thus, one could not say that the United States is excluding us from its current policy in the Gulf?

[Levi] Certainly not. Of course, one could not say the United States is coordinating any one specific action with us, because we must not forget how difficult this situation is from the U.S. viewpoint and the viewpoint of its partners, including Israel. [end recording]

Shamir Says Relations With U.S. Normal

TA2211171590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister and the defense minister today addressed the fabric of relations between Israel and the United States. In the course of a visit to Beersheba, Yitzhaq Shamir was asked whether, during his upcoming visit to the United States, he would confer with President Bush. If I am invited, I will see him again, said the prime minister. He rejected the contention that there is a rift in his relations with President Bush, and, reacting to the claim that their relations are cool, he said: No comment. He added later: Our relations are not cool; they are normal. [passage omitted]

Officials React to Bush Meeting With Al-Asad

Shamir on Prompting Aggression

TA2211120690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir hopes that President Bush's meeting with the Syrian president will not encourage Damascus' aggressive policy against Israel. This is what he said:

[Begin Shamir recording] It should be seen in the context of President Bush's great effort to establish and preserve the large coalition against Saddam Husayn.

We would like to hope, at the same time, that this meeting will not encourage the aggressive policy of Syria and its president against the State of Israel. [end recording]

The prime minister made these remarks at Sede Boqer, where a commemorative ceremony for David Ben-Gurion was held 17 years after the death of the first prime minister.

Foreign Ministry Official Comments

TA2211162190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav by Uri Paz—live]

[Text] [Paz] Good evening, sir.

[Merhav] Good evening.

[Paz] We wish to hear more about Jerusalem's reaction to Bush's upcoming meeting with Syrian President al-Asad. What is our view of that meeting?

[Merhav] I think the prime minister presented our position very succinctly. What I would like to add is that the Americans have had a lot of experience with Hafiz al-Asad, spanning many years. Since we are experiencing an ever-changing series of dramatic events here, however, we might be inclined to forget that only a few years ago the state of relations between the United States and Syria was completely different. Nor can we forget that in the course of the second half of 1982 and the first half of 1983, it was the Syrians who misled the Americans—and through them misled us as well—regarding their intentions. I am referring to the agreement on Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon. During that time, the Syrians were the champions of terrorism, leading in effect to their isolation in the international community, particularly in the democratic community.

[Levi] What can such a meeting herald? Can it possibly indicate some peaceful Syrian intention?

[Merhav] The Syrians—or rather probably al-Asad's most intimate inner cabinet, in which he naturally has the final say—have evidently reached the conclusion that the road they had previously taken would lead

nowhere. They are facing considerable economic difficulties; despite their earlier declarations, they did go to the Arab city of Alexandria, where the Israeli flag flies, for a meeting with Mubarak; they allowed Egypt to return to the Arab League; and they realize that only very generous U.S. aid can help them overcome their economic problems and break out of their isolation.

[Paz] We would like to take advantage of this conversation with you to hear your comment on Margaret Thatcher's decision to resign today. Bush is thus losing one of the chief supporters of his policy, and he desperately needs that support.

[Merhav] It is not my job to comment on this, yet one thing is clear: I believe the British, or the British political alignment as perceived in the Conservative Party, actually expressed firm support for Margaret Thatcher's policy. I am not sure the broad coalition led by the United States will be served well by the replacement of that lady at such trying times. I think that, fundamentally, British policy will not change.

[Paz] Thank you very much.

[Merhav] Good evening.

Arens on 'Misunderstandings'

TA2211182390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says that Israel does not feel that there is such a great difference between Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn. He claimed there is a difference between our impression of al-Asad and his image in the United States. Minister Arens was speaking at a seminar in the Strategic Research Center at Tel Aviv University, and his remarks are reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

[Begin recording] [Menashe] The Syrians are continuing to dabble in terrorism, says Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and we have good reason to believe that they murdered Dani Sham'un and his children, just as they killed Bashir al-Jumayyil several years ago. The Syrians run training camps for the terrorist organizations, and terrorist squads operate under their instructions, trying to carry out daily attacks against Israel.

[Arens] I tend to believe that there is a wide difference in our perceptions and those of the United States regarding Hafiz al-Asad and Syria. Israel does not draw such a great distinction between Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn: The one is the leader of the Syrian Ba'th, the other the leader of the Iraqi Ba'th. Hafiz al-Asad, too, has proved that he is a brutal dictator who does not shun using force on a small or large scale. What happened in Hamah is common knowledge. At the same time, we hear that Washington is thinking about removing Syria from the list of countries that encourage terrorism.

[Menashe] There is nothing wrong in Bush's meeting al-Asad. I would welcome even a meeting between Prime Minister Shamir and al-Asad, and I wish one would take place, Arens said.

[Arens] I think that to the extent that certain thoughts come to mind in Israel in view of the meeting between President Bush and Hafiz al-Asad, they refer only to the fact that for several months now—in fact, since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis—senior U.S. officials have been visiting the area, going to meet not only with Hafiz al-Asad but also with leaders of other Arab countries, and yet they are not visiting Israel.

We are not offended by this; we will welcome any guest cordially. I think, however, that all those present—who I believe are all residents of the Middle East like myself, whether newly arrived or veteran residents—know that in this region the meeting is the message [previous five words in English]. Here, again, I presume certain thoughts arise in the Arab world, possibly in Syria, which may not at all mesh with the intentions of the U.S. Administration. I think that misunderstandings can easily be generated by the fact that President Bush travels to the regional Arab countries, meets with King Fahd, I believe—although this in itself is also not bad—and will also meet with President Mubarak—an excellent thing—as well as with Hafiz al-Asad, but prefers not to visit Israel. [end recording]

Called 'Discredit' to Bush

TA2211114590 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Nov 90 p 17

[Editorial: "Legitimizing Al-Asad"]

[Text] The meeting between George Bush and Hafiz al-Asad in Geneva is to the discredit of the U.S. President. Bush, the leader of a nation proudly bearing the banner of democracy, is thereby legitimizing a totalitarian leader whose hands are tainted with the blood shed in terror attacks against U.S. and Israeli targets. Margaret Thatcher, on the other hand, has until this very moment not forgiven al-Asad for his satanic plot to blow up an El Al plane and its passengers over British skies two years ago. Moreover, only two weeks ago al-Asad's soldiers murdered dozens of Lebanese officers in cold blood while the world kept silent. After all, this was taking place in East Beirut and not on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem.

Admittedly, the anti-Iraq coalition consolidated by Bush in the Persian Gulf—including Syria—matters to the United States, but it is far from meriting fawning before the Syrian president. The meeting illustrates the Bush administration's political imbalance in the Middle East. Israel, a loyal strategic ally which has always stood by the United States at the right time and in the right place, has temporarily been abandoned and jilted for the sake of the U.S.-Arab coalition's integrity. Yitzhaq Shamir may not be Bush's favorite leader, but since when has al-Asad become one?

The fact that Israel was omitted from the recent tours of Middle East capitals by Bush, Baker, and Cheney is enraging and humiliating. It gives the Arab side the illusion that once the Gulf crisis is over the new coalition will be able to march together in the direction of Jerusalem. That is a terrible mistake that the Americans must hasten to dispel. Negotiations and a political settlement may work with Israel, but not so U.S.-Arab pressure; certainly not with a hardliner like Shamir.

Bush and the U.S. Administration must rid themselves of the Saddam Husayn trauma and proceed to study the map of the Middle East in a different light. Israel has been and remains the most stable U.S. ally. In order to strengthen this feeling, which had recently faded away, President Bush must invite Shamir to the White House for a comprehensive debate on Israeli-U.S. relations to wipe the slate clean and give a new peace initiative a chance.

'Anger and Hurt' in Jerusalem

TA2211095690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Nov 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by David Makovsky in Jerusalem, Allison Kaplan in Washington, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Government circles reacted with a mixture of anger and hurt last night at U.S. President George Bush's planned meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad tomorrow in Geneva. It would be the first encounter between al-Asad and an American president in 13 years.

"This time Bush has gone too far," one official complained. "We are surprised that Bush is ready to meet someone who tramples on human rights, is a known practitioner of terrorism, and is one of the worst enemies of the U.S." He noted that Syria is still on the U.S. list of countries which practise terrorism, and is considered responsible for the killing of 259 passengers, including many Americans, in the Pan Am 103 explosion, in December 1988, over Lockerbie, Scotland. (Bush was, in fact, asked by reporters today in Saudi Arabia to justify his meeting with al-Asad.)

The official confirmed that Israel was not notified in advance of Bush's decision to meet al-Asad.

However, there was no official reaction last night to the Bush-al-Asad meeting, as Israel does not wish to be seen as attempting to spoil U.S. attempts to maintain its coalition against Iraq. Some observers believe that the Bush-al-Asad meeting is designed to add momentum to the major U.S. effort to pass a Security Council resolution authorizing war against Iraq, before the U.S. gives up the presidency of the Council at the end of the month.

Officials said privately that Bush's decision is worrisome because it illustrates that he might be willing to make major sacrifices to placate the most truculent of his Arab allies, while at the same time remaining reluctant to meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Shamir strongly denies that he is seeking such a meeting during a private trip to the U.S. early next month, but American sources say the White House is weighing the possibility.

One official in the Prime Minister's Office expressed the widely held view here that the significance of the Bush-al-Asad meeting is in its symbolism rather than its substance. "This clearly illustrates their priorities. All of American policy is aimed at maintaining their coalition in the Persian Gulf," an official said. [passage omitted]

Could Harm 'Vital Interests'

TA2311064090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem said that Israel appreciates the United States' need to strengthen its coalition against Iraq, but there is concern that the meeting between President Bush and President al-Asad could be at Israel's expense and harm its vital interests.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen was told that Israel is trying to cut the damage as much as possible and that it hopes the United States will influence Syria to change its aggressive policy, advance towards peace, expel the terrorist organizations from its territory, and withdraw from Lebanon.

Commentary on Cancellation of Bush-Husayn Meeting

JN2311133490 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 22 Nov 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: There are conflicting reports on the real reasons behind the cancellation of the meeting scheduled to have been held in Paris this week between U.S. President George Bush and King Husayn of Jordan. We do not want to delve into details of these conflicting reports. Likewise, we are not going to say whether this or that report is indisputably correct. But, it goes without saying that King Husayn's ties with the U.S. Administration are experiencing a crisis. These ties are facing difficulties. They, just like his ties with Saudi Arabia and the other Arabian Gulf states, may have deteriorated thanks to his positions on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

King Husayn attempted to maneuver and to play a double game in the Gulf crisis. King Husayn has, over the past two decades, shown shrewdness and intelligence in playing this double game. But he made a double mistake this time. First and foremost, King Husayn made a mistake when he attempted to play this game against the background of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait—an act engendered by treachery, ingratitude, bullying, and terrorist tyranny. The international community was unanimous in condemning this invasion, demonstrating consensus and determination unprecedenced in the history of the United Nations. Second, King Husayn made a mistake when he seems to have thought or guessed that he could indefinitely persist in playing the role of spectator, working both sides of the street, and maneuvering between the existing currents on both the Arab and

world scenes. Lastly, there are various pieces of evidence which show that the Middle Eastern and international implications of the Gulf crisis were a critical touchstone that separated the good from the bad, a touchstone that will not allow anybody to remain a spectator, to maneuver, or to work both sides of the street. Moreover, various indicators, particularly those which have been recently manifested by the U.S. president's tour in our region, show that the Gulf crisis is swiftly approaching zero hour when firm action will be taken, not only regarding the fate of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his regime, but also regarding the fate of all those who wagered on him or threw themselves into his lap.

Officials React to Thatcher Resignation Decision

Shamir Receives Thatcher Message

TA2311113090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir received a message from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today, in which she informed him of her decision to resign. Thatcher thanked Shamir for the cooperation and friendship he demonstrated toward her during her term in office. The outgoing British prime minister also expressed the hope that her successor would pursue the traditional good relations between the two countries. This report was filed by our political correspondent Natan Gutman.

Shamir Notes 'Touch of Sadness'

TA2211174390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] A short while after word was out that Mrs. Thatcher had resigned, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reacted to the move:

[Begin Shamir recording] I cannot interfere in the political changes in the British arena; the British democracy moves in its own course; the British democracy is the mother of all democracies and parliamentarism. That is why such phenomena and such events are not surprising. Nonetheless, there is a touch of sadness in the heart, as we all acknowledge the special personality of Mrs. Thatcher, who has done so much for her country. [end recording]

Herzog, Perez de Cuellar Agree on Envoy's Visit

TA2111204090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The date for the UN envoy's visit to Israel will be coordinated between Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and Yoram Aridor, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations. This was agreed upon in the meeting between the UN secretary general and President Hayim Herzog. In reply to a question by our reporter 'Oded Ben-'Ami, the UN secretary general said that Jean-Claude Aime will be his envoy, not an emissary on behalf of the Security Council.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 2030 GMT on 21 November adds that "UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar this evening accepted the invitation extended by President Hayim Herzog to visit Israel in the near future. This was reported to the press by Herzog after his meeting with the secretary general in New York this evening. No specific date for Perez de Cuellar's visit was given."]

Arens on Danger of Iraq-Led Coalition After Gulf

TA2211182990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Nov 90

["Excerpt" of Defense Minister Moshe Arens' address before the Strategic Research Center at Tel Aviv University on 22 November; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I believe a lot will depend on how this crisis will end—if indeed it does. If it does not end in the collapse of Saddam Husayn's regime, I presume we will find ourselves once again as tiny Israel facing—alone again, perhaps—the threat of an eastern front and an Arab coalition headed by Saddam Husayn and Iraq.

We have stood up to this challenge before, with a military force which I would say was not larger than the military forces that are currently deployed in the Gulf by the United States and its allies. These forces are deployed only against the Iraqis; we were prepared, and continue to be prepared, to face the danger of a coalition led by Iraq, one in which it will not be the sole component. As I said before, if the crisis ends—if one can call it that—and Saddam Husayn's regime remains intact, perhaps we might find ourselves once again in the same situation in which we will have to be prepared for the danger of a confrontation with such a coalition.

Arens Orders 'Mass Enlistment' of Bedouins

TA2311112090 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Nov 90 p A1

[Text] Minister Arens has instructed the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to expand the enlistment of Bedouins into its ranks. Additionally, the range of duties and variety of units that will be opened to them will increase so that they can serve in duties other than scouting, the job most of them hold today. Staff work toward that end is already under way in the Manpower Branch.

Senior military sources note that the thinking behind the minister's instruction is to "draw the Bedouins closer to Israeli society, particularly in light of the radicalization felt there [not further specified] recently."

Currently only a few Bedouins join the Army yearly. Most of them are scouts and veteran career servicemen.

The intention is to shift to mass enlistment of Bedouins into the IDF and to incorporate them in many jobs.

Building in Territories Said Not for Immigrants

TA2311073690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] The Housing Ministry is continuing to build apartments in the territories, but not as part of a plan to settle immigrants there, ministry officials confirmed yesterday.

But the officials refused to comment on newspaper reports that funds allocated for immigrants' housing were being shifted to projects in the territories.

Next week, a five-member U.S. delegation is due to arrive to discuss details of a U.S. guarantee for a loan of $400 million for immigrant housing.

Housing Ministry spokesman Nimrod Granit said that the immigrant settlement policy has not changed. Immigrants are not directed to the territories and housing projects for them are concentrated in Galilee and the Negev.

But building in the territories has not stopped. The ministry has allocated over NIS [new Israeli shekels] 5m. this year for the purchase of caravans, said Yosi Margalit, head of the ministry's rural building department.

Kollek, Arabs Agree on Jerusalem Building Plan

TA2311074290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Nov 90 p 20

[Report by Ron Kampeas]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek and East Jerusalem Arabs joined in rare unanimity yesterday in praising the Jerusalem district planning committee's go-ahead for 7,500 new apartments for the Arab community.

The apartments are to be built northwards from the French Hill junction towards Ramallah. [passage omitted]

Deputy Mayor Avraham Qehila, who chairs the municipal building and planning committee, said the municipality had received a NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1.8 million loan from the Interior Ministry to start building in the area. He added that he hoped there would be no Arab resistance to construction.

Moda'i Returns; Comments on Economy, Investment

TA2211191590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i returned from the United States this afternoon, saying he had made no promises to the Histadrut [General Federation of Labor] that some clauses in the Treasury's economic plan would not be submitted to the Knesset for approval. Moda'i said he merely promised that these clauses, including changing the minimum wage law and savings schemes, would be discussed.

On Defense Minister Arens' demand for a budget increase for his ministry, Moda'i said the defense minister has always been the government's representative in the defense establishment. He said the situation now has been reversed, with Arens being the representative of the defense establishment in the government. As a result, Moda'i said he would now take an active interest in the content of the defense budget.

On his trip to the United States, the finance minister told reporter Le'a Zinder he found Americans reluctant to invest in Israel because of the strained relations that exist between Washington and Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Prayers of 13,000 at Temple Mount End Quietly

TA2311121690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Report by Gil Hitman from Jerusalem's Temple Mount]

[Excerpt] The prayers here ended quietly. More worshipers have arrived on the Temple Mount this week than in previous weeks. The police estimate that some 13,000 Muslims attended the prayers. The reason for the relatively large number of worshipers, the police told us, is that ID's were not confiscated from worshipers entering the Temple Mount, and barriers restricting movement in the Old City were not set up. Throughout the prayers, police commanders watched the scene from a lookout on the mount. Deputy Commander Arye Bibi sums up:

[Begin Bibi recording] There were more than the usual number of worshipers today—some 13,000. We did not take away ID's or set up barriers. Whoever wished to pray could reach the mosques. In general, we want life to return to normal by opening the Temple Mount gates to Jews and Arabs, and anybody else who wants to visit the Temple Mount. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Organizations, Press React to Bush Gulf Visit

JANDA Denounces Visit

JN2111202290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 21 Nov (PETRA)—The Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance [JANDA] today issued a statement denouncing the visit U.S. President George Bush will make to a number of Arab capitals. JANDA also stressed that a solution to the Gulf crisis can only be achieved under the Arab canopy. The solution should respond to all sincere Arab initiatives, the latest of which is the call made by His Majesty King Hassan II to convene an emergency Arab summit to resolve all issues in the region.

In a statement read out today by its spokesman, Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi, JANDA emphasized that international legitimacy is an indivisible whole and that the root of the crisis in the Middle East lies in the fact that the Palestinian question had not been resolved and national independence had not been achieved on the land of Palestine. The statements says the Palestine question constitutes the historical background to the Gulf crisis.

JANDA called for a broadly-based international conference to resolve all regional problems, including those involving Lebanon, Palestine, and the Golan, as well as the Arabian Gulf question if the desired Arab solution cannot be achieved.

In the statement, JANDA vehemently denounced the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, which has directly affected Jordan, and called for an end to the blockade and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the region. It also called for an Arab summit at the nearest possible opportunity to find an Arab settlement that guarantees the legitimate interests of all Arab parties.

Al-RA'Y 21 Nov Editorial

JN2111220690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Nov 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Invasion in Defense of Democracy!"]

[Text] President George Bush has not felt the least hesitation about announcing that the object of sending his and the allies' forces to the Gulf is to defend democracy. The U.S. President is aware that this announcement is among the kind of claim that no one, including himself, can accept or believe in. President Bush knows that he has come to our region to impose hegemony over our political options, over oil sources, and over the nation's presence and future. He also knows that the American military presence in the Gulf aims at protecting U.S. interests—as he has declared many times—and the Americans' right to find jobs—as his secretary of state has said. The democracy that he has come to protect is coercion, encroachment on human rights, continued looting, and the rule of regimes hostile to their peoples and allies of the enemies of these peoples.

What is certain is that American military operations throughout the world have neither been in the past nor will be in the future aimed at protecting democracy. Washington has been the first, strong, and direct ally of all repressive regimes in South America, Asia, and Africa. It has always been in the rank of these regimes against their own people with all political, economic, intelligence, and even military support when these regimes have begun to lose control.

Perhaps the matter on which we agree with President Bush is what was in his speech at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe; that is, that the success and firmness of the democratic principles in Europe depends on their application throughout the world, and that safeguarding human rights and the rule of law should extend to all parts of the world. Here we wonder if the United States is concerned in applying this real criterion when the matter relates to the Zionist occupation of occupied Palestine, to the Zionist occupation of Arab territory, and to the Arab regimes allied to Washington, which deprive their people of their simple democratic rights and practice severe policies of unlimited repression and terrorism.

Bush's determination to apply UN resolutions in the Gulf crisis mirrors a respect, which we ridicule, of this international body when it is on the side of the United States. This insistence, which is not applied on similar resolutions related to the Middle East crisis, clearly reveals to us the double-standards and the immorality with which Washington practices its policies, which are hostile to our nation, to the Palestinian people's rights, and to our homeland's right to benefit from international detente and to enjoy security and stability, and the peace that it seeks.

We declare that any American talk on democracy gives rise to surprise and ridicule when the matter relates to the American invasion and to American descriptions of democracy. We would like to note here that Jordan, the country living a real democracy, is now the object of overt and covert U.S. hostility, because it is a democratic country, because it rejects double-standards on issues, and because it places Washington before its own claims which nobody, including the U.S. Administration itself, can believe.

We only ask President Bush to take a look among his allies to find that the democracy about which he speaks—and on whose description the whole world agrees—neither exists in the trench of the invaders of our Arab soil nor in the ranks of his allies who will have a big share in the defeat when the nation wages its holy war in defense of its soil, pride, wealth, and options, not in defense of American interests and ambitions and the policies of hegemony, disdain, and humiliation that

Washington and London insist on practicing against millions of Arabs and Muslims.

AL-RA'Y 23 Nov Editorial

JN2311081890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Intentions of Bush and Israel"]

[Text] In the speech he delivered when meeting with U.S. forces in Dhahran, President Bush said that every passing day brings Iraq closer to possessing a nuclear arsenal. This is what gives an aspect of urgency to the task of these forces. Regardless of the credibility or precision of what is being said about Iraq's closeness to possessing nuclear weapons, the fact that Bush is using this pretext clearly reveals that the Iraqi power is the prime target, in the first place, for the instigation and massing of troops the United States is leading under cover of the Gulf crisis. As this goal is very clearly shown, it is noteworthy that the U.S. President has not lifted a finger over the Israeli nuclear arsenal, of which there have been many world reports. He has not lifted a finger over Israel's refusal to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to inspect Israeli nuclear reactors, at a time when Iraq allows the IAEA to inspect its installations. This reveals the extent of the double standards in U.S. performance. It also reveals that the true goal Bush is working toward is to strip the region of any Arab power which can confront the Israeli aggression, irrespective of whether this power is nuclear or traditional.

In light of this conclusion, we say that the blow Bush is planning for the Iraqi power is not far from what Israel is planning for the al-Aqsa Mosque. In fact, this blow seems to be the introduction which Israel cannot do without to give it the opportunity to implement its evil intentions. Therefore, the Arab and Islamic sides participating in the U.S. buildup must be alert to the fact that pulling down the al-Aqsa Mosque is the essence of all the goals agreed on by imperialism and Zionism. Conspiracy over the Iraqi power under cover of the Gulf crisis is the key to realizing the dream of the [Solomon's] temple, which is the essential pillar of Israeli policy.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Arab and Islamic sides participating in that buildup to hurry, wash their hands of it and move well away from it before they become involved in an American-Israeli operation whose final goal is to pull down the al-Aqsa Mosque and build the temple in its place, especially since Bush seems to be in a great hurry, as he stated to his forces in Dhahran. We must also remind and confirm that involvement in an operation whose goal is this clear will be a crime that cannot be forgiven until doomsday.

JPDP, Islamic Jihad Condemn Tour

JN2311090990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Amman—The Jordan People's Democratic Party [JPDP] has expressed its indignation over and denunciation of U.S. President Bush's tour of some Arab capitals.

A JPDP statement issued yesterday said the U.S. Administration was not satisfied with its barbaric invasion of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, its siege of Iraq and Jordan, and its flagrant bias toward Zionism. Therefore, Bush embarked on a new provocative step against our Arab nation by visting some capitals.

The statement added that Bush's visit to the region, which is accompanied by drums of war and plans for new security alliances, comes in the wake of the increasing opposition Bush is facing within the United States for his provocative policy toward Iraq. This, it added, has compelled him to search for solutions to his crisis in his European and Arab tour by seeking the cohesion of his Atlantic and Arab allies and international support for a UN resolution allowing the use of force against Iraq.

Exploiting the impasse facing America and its Arabs, Israel adopted a new blatant and arrogant step represented by the formation of a ministry for Jerusalem affairs and using the occupied Palestinian lands to settle the Jewish immigrants.

The statement said our masses, which are proudly and strongly rejecting the Atlantic invasion of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula and which are supporting the valiant Palestinian intifadah and steadfast Iraq, view Bush's visit as a provocation of our national pan-Arab feelings.

The Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis Movement called on the masses to express their wrath and rejection of this hostile visit.

In a statement called "The Day of Wrath," the movement cursed President Bush and his inside and outside agents. It appealed to Muslims and Arabs to reject humiliation and subservience, indicating that this nation will not bow to Bush or anyone else among the enemies of Islam and Muslims.

The Islamic Jihad challenged Bush to declare war and attack Iraq because such a strike will bring his end in the region and in the Muslims' homeland as well as the end of the Jewish state.

The statement praised the heroic deeds of our kinfolk, the kinfolk of the valiant intifadah, and their resistance of the U.S.-backed Israeli occupation authorities, emphasizing that the end of the Jewish state is near.

Muslim Brotherhood Statement

JN2311095890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Nov 90 p 18

[Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood issued a statement yesterday dnouncing U.S. President Bush's visit to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The statement said the Muslim Brothers denounce the usurping enemy's entrance into the land of Koranic revelation [Saudi Arabia] and Egypt and condemn the American-Zionist plot in which some Arab regimes are participating.

Sources Query Postponed Bush-Husayn Meeting

JN2211131390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Nov pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The White House said Wednesday a planned meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President George Bush in Paris was called off because the King "said he couldn't come."

The statement was made by presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater aboard Air Force One carrying Bush to Saudi Arabia from Paris Wednesday evening. The spokesman did not elaborate.

The Royal Court said Monday that the White House had postponed Tuesday's Paris meeting, which could have come on the fringes of an European summit on security.

Jordanian sources were puzzled by Fitzwater's comment Wednesday. They said they could not understand the motives behind it. "The only explanation I could come up with," said one source, "is that the White House found itself embarrassed by President Bush's decision not to see a key player in the search for a settlement of the Gulf crisis, King Husayn, at the same time when the Soviets, the French and the Germans gave him the cold shoulder in Paris."

The U.S. president "might have thought he did not need to see an important advocate of peace when he thought Moscow, Paris and Bonn would back his call for a military option," the source said. "Unfortunately for him (Bush) things did not work out that way, and he now seems to be sorry that he decided not to see the King," the source added.

"Isn't it ironic that as Bush cancelled the meeting with His Majesty, for reasons of heavy schedule, he found time for other Gulf-related political activities in the area and elsewhere?" the source asked. "But if the Americans are serious about their contention that the King chose not to go to Paris to see Bush, why did Fitzwater not say in his statement that the U.S. president wanted to meet the King at a later date to discuss the whole issue of the Gulf?"

U.S. Embassy Team on Border Criticized

Practices Reproved

JN2211080090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Nov 90 p 2

["An Eyewitness" column by Muhammad Tamliyah: "The American Embassy"]

[Text] Finally, the interior minister admitted that the "American Embassy had acted in conflict with Jordan's sovereignty"!! The minister adds: "The Embassy asked to set up a medical team in al-Ruwayshid to receive American nationals arriving from Iraq and Kuwait, but it was later discovered that this team was not performing the task for which it was sent, but acted in conflict with Jordanian sovereignty" and so forth!!

I apologize for what I am going to say: Because the American Embassy practices, which contravene our sovereignty over our territory did not begin with the outbreak of the Gulf crisis and were never confined to the fabrication of a suspect medical team!! We are aware that the American Embassy and other foreign as well as Arab embassies have practiced and continue to practice numerous forms of encroachment on our sovereignty.

We know that the American Embassy acquired its status from your extraordinary protection of it. You may know that walking by the embassy, stopping a taxi cab in front of it, or even pointing to the building was and continues to be risky.

I thank the House of Representatives for raising this point and believe the embassy's behavior would have remained secret had it not been discussed by the representatives.

Restricting Diplomats Urged

JN2211091290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Nov 90 p 18

["Just a Word" Column by Ahmad al-Dabbas: "The U.S. Embassy and the Deputies' Protest"]

[Text] Our valiant people, who are overwhelmed by feelings of anger and outrage at the blatant U.S. aggression against our Arab nation, and who reject all direct and indirect U.S. pressures applied on Jordan because it is faithful to its nation and its causes, yearn for an official position ending the practices of the U.S. ambassador in Amman and his embassy team. In essence and form, these practices constitute a continuation of the U.S. aggression, a departure from diplomatic norms and traditions, and encroachment upon our country's national sovereignty.

The deputies' strong protest—under the dome of Parliament and in the first session of the current term—against the moves and practices of the U.S. ambassador and the embassy team was a true embodiment of our people's will, and a faithful expression of this country's national

and pan-Arab positions. The deputies asked the government to intervene firmly and to make the appropriate decision that to end these practices and restrict the geographic and political movement of the U.S. diplomats *in manner that guarantees our national sovereignty* over our territory and is in line with international laws and diplomatic traditions. This would underline the fact that Jordanian territory—like the minds, hearts, and conscience of this people—is impregnable to every suspicious move and every aggressive and conspiratorial design, while open and hospitable to every friend and every act that serves our nation's causes.

The deputies have asked the government to protest officially against these practices, which provoke our people's feelings and contradict our positions and principles.

The deputy prime minister and interior minister explained the facts concerning the presence of the U.S. embassy team in al-Ruwayshid over the past weeks for surveillance. He stressed that the government asked for the withdrawal of the team because its presence violates Jordanian sovereignty, and that the team was actually withdrawn. But caution is required, especially because the enemies of this homeland are doing all they can to find gaps through which they can infiltrate to cast doubt on Jordan's position and disrupt its strong domestic front and the unity between the people and the leadership, which reflects a firm pan-Arab position aimed at consolidating the nation's will, rejecting the foreign invasion of Arab land, and supporting Iraq in its pan-Arab battle.

Although we know how firm our domestic front is, our national pride cannot allow the U.S. Embassy team to move about as it pleases and beyond known limits to watch our border, follow businessmen, or promote suspicious calls under the cover of saving and protecting the Jordanian economy.

An official protest against the United States over these moves would vent our anger.

Communist Party Criticism

JN2211114690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Nov 90 p 5

[Text] The Jordanian Communist Party has condemned the blatant U.S. interference in the region's affairs, especially by the U.S. Embassy in Amman, which carried out surveillance and spying in the al-Ruwayshid area to monitor the border and ascertain that the embargo resolutions imposed on Iraq were being implemented.

In a press statement, the party condemned the U.S. President's visit to the Arab region, considering it an escalation of aggressive preparations, an intensification of the Gulf crisis, and a fanning of the flames.

The party said that this visit coincides with other provocations by American ships at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba in searching commercial ships bound for Jordan, unloading their cargo, and diverting them to other ports through premeditated provocative means aimed at exposing goods to damage and delay and inflicting losses on Jordanian trade.

The party called for putting an end to these blatant interventions, which go beyond even the UN resolutions in this regard.

In another statement, the Communist Party denounced the terrorist methods employed by the Egyptian security and intelligence organs against the Jordanian, Palestinian, Iraqi, Yemeni, and Sudanese citizens at Cairo airport and the port of Yanbu' as well as their deportation, imprisonment, interrogation, and torture for no reason except that they belong to people and governments that have taken a clear national stand against the American and Atlantic military presence and against certain regimes' collusion and participation in this presence.

The party called on the Jordanian Government to take measures and hold contacts to ensure our citizens' security, dignity, and interests, especially since a large number of them are university students at Egyptian institutes and universities.

Surveillance Called 'Scandal'

JN2311095590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Nov 90 p 16

["Just and Opinion" column by Badr 'Abd-al-Haq: "Another U.S. Moral Scandal"]

[Text] According to the tribal Arab dictionary, the host must respect his guest and care for him as long as this guest observes the proper traditions and refrains from poking his nose into people's business or asking questions related to the tribe's internal affairs, composition, and daily life.

And according to diplomatic and political traditions, the ambassador in any country is a guest of the state that receives him and provides him and his employees with the necessary protection, care, and rights as stipulated by the law.

One of the most fundamental aspects of diplomacy is that the ambassador and embassy staff should care about not interfering in the affairs of the receiving state and should endeavor to strengthen and expand relations between the peoples and governments of the two countries.

The heart of the matter—after this introduction—is the "scandal" uncovered during the recent House of Representatives session. It became clear that the U.S. Embassy and its partner (or follower) the British Embassy are playing a role far from being a diplomatic one. They seem to have accepted to perform open and direct acts of espionage against the country receiving them, Jordan!

The two embassies (and the American and British governments that wish to see Jordan's economy collapsed and Arab Iraq's power destroyed) made a mistake when they imagined that encroachment on Jordan's sovereignty and dignity is easy, and that a small country like Jordan will not be able to do anything to two countries the caliber of the United States and Britain.

This conduct might have been possible before the democratic change in our country. There had been scores of foreign diplomatic acts in violation of diplomatic and political traditions, but those cases easily disappeared because of the absence of democracy and freedom of expression. But things are now completely different, and what was acceptable before democracy is now unacceptable, or perhaps a full crime.

The U.S. Embassy established its espionage mission on a blatant lie, saying that the affair hinges on an embassy team present in al- Ruwayshid to provide care for U.S. citizens arriving from Iraq and Kuwait. But the Parliament exposed the lie and made it clear that the task of the Embassy and its team was to make sure the blockade against Iraq is tight, without the knowledge of the Jordanian government, which observes the UN Security Council resolutions.

It is a "moral scandal" before being a political or diplomatic one. It is part of a series of scandals, one of which is that the U.S. Embassy stamps the passports of Jordanian citizens wishing to visit the United States with the word "denied", although the passport is a Jordanian document that the U.S. Embassy should not tamper with!

Various Sectors Respond to Thatcher Resignation

Parliament Deputies React

JN2211192790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Our news desk has conducted a brief opinion poll on the resignation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Parliamentary Deputy Dr. Fawzi al-Tu'aymah had this to say:

[Begin Al-Tu'aymah recording] To the extent that it is an indicator of Thatcher's standing in the Conservative Party, the resignation is a positive development. The resignations of ministers leading up to Mrs. Thatcher's also signalled a change in the party. As for the resignation's implications for the Gulf crisis, it is possible to say that it will have a positive impact and it is fair to expect a shift in the traditional British stance. As for us Arabs with a cause and rights, we are bound to react to Thatcher's fall with a feeling of relief given her hostility toward these rights. We would hope that the change has not been occasioned only by domestic British politics; it is hoped the change will have implications for Britain's foreign policy, particularly regarding the Middle East. We may as well not pin too great hopes on that, but it is a positive thing for us that a prime minister known to be hostile to our causes should have stepped down and is no longer a decisionmaker on issues affecting us. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Deputy Dr. Ahmad al-'Uwaydi al-'Abbadi, reacted thus:

[Begin al-'Abbadi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As a matter of fact, the resignation of British Prime minister Margaret Thatcher has been the first upshot of developments in the Arabian Gulf. It also represents the reawakening of the British nation and the clean people within the ranks of the Tories, who are opposed to meddling in the Gulf and enmeshing themselves in an issue that they ought to have nothing to do with. Britain has been working to lay a siege to Jordan and Iraq and their children. The Thatcher government measures against Iraq and Jordan are inhumane and unscrupulous. There has been a reawakening of conscience in the Conservative revolution against Thatcher. Thatcher has been inflexible and opinionated. She never brooked dissent even from within her party—which is what Heseltine and other Conservatives have been saying. I would also add, as many observers comment, that Britain has been pursuing out-of-date policies unfit for the nineties and the end of the century. Her departure deals a heavy blow to Bush, who has lost a key ally and supporter of his plan to launch a war on the entire Arab region and Iraq in particular. In my humble opinion, her resignation will have an impact on the whole world and the United States. More specifically, the UN Security Council will not pass a resolution authorizing war against Iraq. Or, at any rate, such a resolution will not be so tough as would have been the case if Thatcher were still in office. Another thing I would like to mention is that 45 congressmen have taken legal action against Bush to make sure he does not declare war before securing congressional approval. In my opinion, they will win the case, which will be the second devastating blow to Bush. In my humble opinion, the bottom line is: In Britain, Thatcher's rival Heseltine will win out. In the United States, Bush will follow her footsteps and fall shortly, or at any rate, will be a paralyzed president shorn of the power to make decisions. Insofar as the Arabian Gulf is concerned, it may be said that the war is not a short-term possibility. It will be some time before we can say whether there will be war or not. In short, Thatcher, who nearly commanded the art of swimming in British seas, has found she lacks the skill to swim in the waters of the Arabian Gulf. Indeed, when she tried to swim in these waters, she lost the premiership. Thank you. [end recording]

AL-DUSTUR on 'Downfall'

JN2311074490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Nov 90 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Thatcher's Resignation"]

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's sudden resignation yesterday was a major political event. Because of the exceptional nature of Mrs. Thatcher, who

ruled Britain for more than 11 years, the impact of her resignation goes further than the British political scene and reaches many other arenas.

Undoubtedly, Thatcher's departure at this important phase in the life of the world will lead to new political realities, some linked to Europe, which is heading toward harmony and unity, and others linked to the situation in the East and the West, including the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf.

We view Thatcher's resignation with such importance because the outgoing British prime minister has played a special role in establishing the new crusader alliance. Indeed, she, for obscure motives, drove Washington to send its troops to the moving sands of the Arabian desert, causing a serious international crisis threatening a terrible bloody explosion.

While we denounce Thatcher's hateful role of instigation in the current Gulf crisis, we cannot forget that this arrogant woman has thrown her country completely into the U.S. lap, and exactly followed the U.S. steps in all that concerns the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question.

Perhaps the strong satisfaction that Thatcher's resounding downfall has left in Arab popular circles reflects the extent of hatred for the extremely anti-Arab positions adopted by the British prime minister, especially during the existing Gulf crisis, where Thatcher excelled in insulting and cursing all genuine and noble Arab positions.

While we realize that Thatcher's downfall was not linked to the Gulf crisis or the Middle East issue, we also realize that the absence of this woman, who hates everything Arab, will reflect negatively on the crusader alliance in the Gulf. This alliance will lose one of its most important foundations, and Bush will miss one of the allies most capable of cosmeticizing the drowning in the waters of the Gulf and the sands of the Arabian desert.

We, therefore, hope that Thatcher's absence from the British political scene will end an era during which Britain's policy toward the region was characterized by sharp hostility and incomprehensible political stubbornness. We also hope that the expected political change in Britain will result in positive changes in London's positions toward the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question.

Link With Gulf Seen

JN2311092290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
23 Nov 90 p 16

["Highlights" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "With Thatcher's Downfall, Heads Have Begun To Roll"]

[Text] The heads of the conspiracy have begun to fall. After the fall of the U.S. Air Force chief of staff, who revealed U.S. plans to raid the city of five million, Baghdad, it is now the turn of the British prime minister. She was an iron lady, but her iron has rusted and began to erode because peoples' will is stronger than iron.

Thatcher was full of hatred toward the Arab nation and believed no Arab country should be allowed to raise its head, revolt against the empires of evil, and say "no", especially if this "no" is supported by a one million-strong army and by chemical, bacteriological, and nuclear technology.

We do not claim that Thatcher's downfall was totally due her shameless aggressive position on the Gulf crisis. Indeed, she was politically dying before the crisis erupted, but she thought her aggressiveness against Iraq would give her new impetus as did her aggressiveness toward Argentina, when she recaptured the Falkland islands and annexed them to the motherland.

No one in Europe is so enthusiastic for war for the sake of war as the British prime minister. U.S. President Bush found in her a colleague committed to aggressive extremism. Now, Thatcher falls at the hands of her own party. If anyone deserves to be consoled, and if anyone should paint his White House black to mourn his comrade in aggression, then it is the U.S. President Bush, who is now beating the drums of war alone.

We do not know whether we should congratulate President Bush on Thanksgiving, which he celebrated with an Arab banquet, wish him success in his coming meetings with the Arab leaders—who have no other engagements to prevent such meetings—or console him for the downfall of his colleague.

But there is something more important than this. Wise people would learn from the experience of others. Heads have begun to roll, and Bush must try to keep his head and cover the exposed parts because his coming presidency will be at stake if he insists on a bloody war and a historical enmity against the Arab nation. The victims will be tens of thousands of American young men, who should not be sent to death only to secure cheap oil supplies, create more job opportunities, revive a backward and corrupt regime, or defend Israel's security and remove all challenges to it.

It is not too late, and Bush still has the opportunity to listen to the opinion of his people, representatives, and senators in America, and to his allies in Europe. We do not need to warn Bush against listening to the advice and instigation of his Arab allies. We know full well that he gives them no weight.

BBC Radio Report on Relations Called 'Lie'

JN2311115390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
23 Nov 90 p 16

["Signs" column by Dr. Jihad al-Barghuthi: "No, O London Radio!"]

[Text] We are accustomed to London Radio programs to the Arab East and West seeking to sow suspicion in people's minds and infusing poison in its news bulletins

and commentaries, this is not new. No Arab citizen would believe that the British Government is financing the BBC Arabic Service, which covers the entire world through medium and short waves, in order to serve our nation's political, national, and economic interests. Since its establishment it has been in the habit of falsifying facts and giving an ambiguous picture of affairs in order to dominate the Arab intellect through programs carefully studied by senior psychologists, political analysts, and British Middle East policymakers.

On Monday afternoon, 19 November 1990, the radio said the honeymoon between the Palestinians and Jordanians on the one hand and the Iraqis on the other is over, that the Jordanian newspapers began to avoid Iraqi news or frontpaging President Saddam Husayn's photograph, and that many of the people returning to Jordan from Kuwait said this and that about Iraq. All this is a lie and falsehood by London Radio.

Jordan has, on the official and popular level, stood with Iraq against the forces invading Saudi Arabia. The blockade imposed on the port of al-'Aqabah by the American forces is only an example of what Jordan is being exposed to as a result of its pan-Arab positions. Our one Jordanian-Palestinian people see in Iraq a power for them and for all the Arabs.

As for the Palestinian people, none is authorized to speak on their behalf except the PLO, the intifadah leadership, and the stone-throwing heroes who raised the Iraqi flags and President Saddam's pictures over the roofs of their houses. What the Palestinian people did in our occupied territory and what the Jordanian people did on their own territory indicates how much the intifadah wagers on Iraq and how much both are united against the American and Israeli hegemonic plans in the region.

What London Radio or any other radio is propagating is rejected and the Arab citizen can easily discover and refute these false rumors.

Reaction Continues to Shamir Statements

House Speaker Reacts

JN2211122690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Amman, 21 Nov (PETRA)—House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat has said that Jordan is one whole—leadership and people—that it has fully overcome the state of weakness, and that the awareness of its citizens is a matter of pride for the world. He said that this strong unity and the rallying around King Husayn's unprecedented Hashemite leadership are aimed at preserving Jordan, strengthening its foundations, and clearing its pure soil of dirt.

This came in a statement by Dr. 'Arabiyat to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY in reply to statements made concerning Jordan by the Israeli prime minister to the Knesset Foreign and Security Committee last Sunday.

Dr. 'Arabiyat said that this country is a steadfast one, a frontline trench for the defense of the Arab and Islamic nation, and that its sons have taken their positions in the noble march initiated by His Majesty King Husayn by allowing free and fair elections, which have strengthened everybody's position against the enemies. [passage omitted]

Soviet Ambassador Speaks

JN2111194390 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1825 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Statement by Soviet Ambassador Yuriy Gryadunov in Amman; Gryadunov speaks in Arabic; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Regrettably, the Israeli authorities' statements and certain practical steps, including those that affect the legal status of the occupied territories—including East Jerusalem—cannot be considered as responsible. On the contrary, they hamper the efforts to find a just solution to the Palestine question and achieve the just peace in the region. Furthermore, such statements and steps directly contravene international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

The occupied Arab territories do not belong to Israel. Its expansionist claims are illegal. This analysis also applies to the attempts to illegally settle the Jews emigrating to those territories.

Economic Delegation Departs for Moscow

JN2211110990 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Amman, 20 Nov (PETRA)—The economic delegation headed by Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Industry and Trade Ministry, left Amman for Moscow today on a one-week official visit. The delegation will hold talks with Soviet officials and businessmen on developing cooperation and trade exchange between the two countries.

In a statement to THE JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Dr. Badran said that one of the most important objectives of the delegation's visit is to become familiar with opportunities in the Soviet market and to establish direct relations between Jordanian producers and Soviet institutions, especially since this year has witnessed noticeable activity in Jordanian industries and Soviet interest in them. [passage omitted]

King Says Leaders 'Like De Gaulle' Needed

JN2111155990 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] His majesty the king said the centennial of the late French President Charles de Gaulle's birthday comes at a time of grave danger, in which human beings wish to

see a world free from hate and agression. The king asserted the need for a world leader like De Gaulle who has wisdom, vision, courage, and the ability of decision-making. The king added that historical decisions are only taken by historical leaders.

Foreign Ministry Executives Meet Swiss Official

JN2111093190 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1620 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 19 Nov (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received at his office this morning Mr. Klaus Jacobi, Swiss minister of state for foreign affairs.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi then discussed with Mr. Jacobi relations between the two countries and ways of promoting them, developments in the Gulf crisis, efforts to find a peaceful solution, and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Following the talks, Jacobi told journalists that Switzerland prefers to solve the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli dispute through peaceful means.

He expressed belief that Iraq's recent decision to allow foreign guests to leave Iraq in batches will not encourage the United States and Britain to retreat from their position on the Gulf crisis.

Regarding Switzerland's economic aid to Jordan as a result of the impact of the Gulf crisis on Jordan, he said that his country agrees that Jordan should be one of the principal beneficiaries of this aid, particularly from that promised by the Swiss Government. He pointed out that the 10 million Swiss francs aid his government has extended to Jordan since the beginning of the crisis was intended to facilitate the return of evacuees to their countries.

Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements on the need for Israel to retain the occupied Arab territories to settle Jewish immigrants, Mr. Jacobi said that these statements conflict with what Shamir himself emphasized during their recent meeting. He said Shamir had told him that Israel has no legal claim to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He also referred to the tense situation in the occupied Arab territories, stressing that this will not help in finding a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Minister Meets Romanian, Swiss Officials

JN2111132290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Planning Minister Khalid Amin 'Abdallah reviewed with Romanian Ambassador Dumitru Stanescu in Amman today the arrangements concerning the meetings of the Jordaninan-Romanian joint committee for economic, technical, and scientific cooperation scheduled to be held at the Planning Ministry next Sunday.

They discussed ways of promoting cooperation in various fields between Jordan and Romania on the basis of both countries' mutual interests.

A number of ministries and government institutions will participate in the weeklong committee meetings.

The planning minister also discussed with Mr. Klaus Jacobi, Swiss minister of state for foreign affairs, the current economic situation and the impact of the Gulf crisis on the various sectors of Jordan's economy, including industry, tourism, transportation, and agriculture. They also discussed the additional burdens resulting from the returning of Jordanian expatriates from Kuwait, the issue of absorbing the returning students in universities and schools, and the growing unemployment.

He also explained the extent of loss suffered by Jordanian investments, which were built on traditional exporting, adding that these markets no longer exist as a result of the current circumstances and the difficulties of establishing alternative markets.

He also discussed the possibility of turning the remainder of the Swiss Government's loan to Jordan in 1985 to finance development projects into a grant. The loan amounts to 14 million Swiss Francs. Mr. Jacobi promised to study the request and said that the Swiss Government would extend urgent aid of $100 million to three states, which sustained losses as a result of implementing the Security Council resolutions. These states, he said, are: Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan. The meeting was attended by the Swiss ambassador in Amman.

Sudanese Culture Minister Arrives 20 Nov

JN2211111390 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information Mr. Muhammad Khojali Salihin arrived in Amman today on a two-day visit to Jordan.

In a statement to THE JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, the Sudanese minister praised the strong relations between Jordan and Sudan. He added that during his visit he will discuss cooperation, and cooperation with the Jordan mass media regarding the Gulf crisis and the necessity of a peaceful solution to it.

Views Gulf Situation

JN2211111690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Interview with Muhammad Khojli Salihin, Sudanese minister of culture and information, by an unidentified reporter in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Mr. Muhammad, if you please, what is your opinion and viewpoint with regard to the Gulf crisis and the possibility to resolve it peacefully, and on its impact on the region?

[Salihin] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: First, I would like to thank you for this meeting. I am pleased that Sudan's opinion is identical to that of Jordan on the Gulf crisis. We are against foreign intervention to resolve this issue. We want a peaceful solution within the Arab household. Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir has taken an initiative in this respect, and his viewpoint was identical to that of His Majesty King Husayn. We were greatly pleased and honored to receive King Husayn in Khartoum. There are continuing efforts among the leaders of Sudan, Jordan, Palestine, Algerian, Libya, and Yemen to reach a peaceful solution so that the foreign colonialists have no pretext or opportunity to intervene in our Arab issues. We support a peaceful solution within the Arab framework. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Says No Political Detainees

JN2111113190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Nov 90 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter 'Abdallah Hasanat]

[Text] Amman—The government yesterday denied that it was holding any political "detainees" following charges by Muslim Brotherhood deputies that several people were detained without trial.

"There is not a single political detainee," Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah told the Jordan Times after the Lower House's session Tuesday.

The charge came from deputies Humam Sa'id (Amman) and Dhib Anis (al-Zarqa'). Anis contended that "many homes were raided and boys were taken to prisons; some people do not even know where their sons are held."

Sa'id claimed that at least seven people were arrested on suspicion they belonged to some militant organization. He said that some of these were previously fighting in Afghanistan on the side of the Mujahideen.

Masa'idah, who was delivered a list of the seven names by deputy 'Ali al-Hawamidah (Amman), insisted no one was detained without charge. He cited one case of a member of Al-Tahrir party arrested for advocating the overthrow of the regime. Al-Tahrir (liberation) party advocates the overthrow of all secular regimes and the reinstating of a Muslim caliphate.

Referring to "detainees" described by Anis as being "treated like spies for their actions against the enemy." Masa'idah said the government would not tolerate any infiltration attempt across the River Jordan. "This puts the security of the whole country in danger," the minister said.

During Tuesday's debate, deputies also tackled a number of issues including problems that Jordanian expatriates who left Kuwait are facing, unemployment, the effect of U.N. sanctions against Iraq on the economy, difficulties facing Jordanian farmers and the status of Gazan refugees residing in Jordan.

Deputy Ziyad Abu-Mahfuz (al-Zarqa') said that Jordanian factories were facing bankruptcy as a result of the sanctions imposed on Iraq while the U.N., the U.S. and the West are "considering" aid to Jordan. "If we are not going to get any aid, I suggest we open our borders with Iraq," he said.

Deputies Ya'qub Qirrish (Amman), 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant (Amman) and Muhammad al-Haj (al-Zarqa') demanded special treatment for Jordanian expatriates who returned from Kuwait. They proposed that expatriates' children be admitted at universities and schools, their cars be exempted from customs and that those eligible for military service be accorded postponment.

House Reelects Financial, Legal Committees

JN2111113590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Nov 90 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Excerpt] Amman—Members of the four permanent committees of the Lower House of Parliament were reelected by a show-of-hands Tuesday as the second session of the parliamentary year began.

Deputies debated the legal standing of the ministers-deputies who are also members of the Lower House committees.

Many deputies argued that ministers' interests would interfere with those of some of the committees and that therefore ministers should not be allowed to serve on the committees. Since no article exists in the Parliament's regulations, deputies decided to have the legal committee study the question.

The four permanent committees of the last parliamentary year were reelected by show of hands. [passage omitted]

New Political Party Holds Press Conference

JN2111114590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Nov 90 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—While the legislation of political parties in Jordan is still awaiting the formulation of the national charter, the formation of the Jordanian Popular Democratic Unity Party (JPDUP), a Jordanian offshoot of the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was announced Tuesday by the party's head, 'Azmi al- Khawaja, at the group's headquarters in Jabal al-Husayn.

"We hereby join in the struggle for the success of a democratic Jordan," al-Khawaja told a press conference.

Al-Khawaja, one of the two members of the new party's political bureau in attendance, told the Jordan Times that the formation of a Jordanian party, based on the ideological principles of the PFLP, had been in the making for some time.

"As a group, we have always had a programme for political work in Jordan, but now the time has come for a full fledged 'Jordanian' party," al-Khawaja explained.

The "socialist principles" of the new party, al-Khawaja said, would work for a closer relationship with popular organisations, labour unions and professional associations as well as the government.

"We call for the genuine participation of the Jordanian people in political life in Jordan," al-Khawaja said.

The party's programme calls, among other things, "for an economically free Jordan which would not be left at the mercy of harsh International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions and a Jordan politically independent from American imperialist schemes and strong enough to resist Zionist expansionist designs." On the social level, the programme urges emancipation of Jordanian women and their equal participation politically, economically and socially in the country's affairs.

Asked about the relationship between the newly formed JPDUP and the PFLP, al-Khawaja said that although the relationship would remain "special" the new party was totally independent.

In an interview given to the Jordan Times earlier this year, al- Khawaja had explained that Jordan's legal and administrative "disengagement" from the occupied territories was one of the main reasons for creating this new independent Jordanian party. The disengagement decision was announced by His Majesty King Husayn on July 31, 1988.

"The disengagement decision meant that there would have to be a Jordanian party sooner or later. We believe that time has now come," he said.

While political parties have been banned in Jordan since 1957, the government has allowed people known to be affiliated with various political groups and parties to run in last November's elections.

Al-Khawaja previously headed the Jordanian branch of the PFLP and the group fielded nine candidates in seven electoral districts in the 1989 elections. One of the candidates, Dr. Dhib Marji, won in his bid for the Christian seat in the Irbid governorate. Marji is also the party's representative in the 60-member Royal Commission which is formulating the national charter.

In their press conference Tuesday, al-Khawaja and Marji pointed out that "our group and the recently founded Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP), which broke away from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine after functioning as its Jordanian wing for over a dozen years, have platforms and programmes that are not primarily based on nationalism but rather on leftist political thoughts."

While the Palestine issue and the realisation of the "legitimate rights and ambitions of the Palestinian people" would be of great concern to the party, it would not be the top issue on the agenda, al-Khawaja said.

"The strength of any political party will depend on two things," al-Khawaja explained. "One is the viability of its political, economic and social platforms, and the second, which is equally important, is its ability to cut across sectarian lines."

Al-Khawaja said that his party supported an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and condemned all foreign intervention.

During the last 20 years, members of the PFLP and those affiliated with the group were kept under close surveillance by the security forces and leaders were frequently arrested for their illegal activities. But since the democratic changes were introduced in the second half of 1989 the group's relatonship with the government has changed.

After meeting with Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Political Advsor to the King 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah and Minister of Information Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din last May, al-Khawaja declared: "the air has been cleared."

Lebanese Forces To Withdraw From Beirut

NC2111145890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] As the situation ebbs and flows, and within the climate of expectations surrounding the anticipated proclamation of Greater Beirut prior to tomorrow's independence anniversary, the Lebanese Forces told AFP today that their military withdrawal from Beirut, which was originally scheduled to take place last Monday, will begin in the next few hours.

A spokesman for the Lebanese Forces said a preliminary agreement had been concluded with the Lebanese Government over the issues which hampered the expansion of the Army's sole authority over Beirut and its suburbs. The spokesman added that the negotiations with the legitimate government had made significant progress, and that measures will be taken in the next few hours in the al-Matn and al-Ashrafiyah areas to bring about the departure of the Lebanese Forces and the deployment of the Army.

Informed sources have viewed the Lebanese Forces' persistent conditions and demands as tending to result in a situation that would be unfavorable to Lebanon and its people.

The same sources stressed that the establishment of Greater Beirut is the political and security theme of the al-Ta'if agreement and that the Lebanese Forces' cunning, cleverness, and complaints about Greater Beirut in fact reveal a stand hostile to the al-Ta'if agreement.

Ja'ja' on Agreement With Government

NC2111153390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has announced that an understanding has been reached between the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese legitimate government on all details pertaining to the Greater Beirut plan following the prolonged contacts held at all levels yesterday. He pointed out that practical steps will be taken in the next few hours, starting in the al-Matn region. He noted that the legitimate government has finally promised to stop violations and restore normalcy in al-Matn.

In an interview with the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-KHALIJ, Dr. Ja'ja' said: Yesterday evening, we told the legitimate government that we were prepared to fulfill our part of the Greater Beirut agreement.

On the nature of the forces that will deploy in al-Ashrafiyah, the Lebanese Forces commander asserted that the legitimate forces will deploy in al-Ashrafiyah and that a specific Lebanese Army force will deploy to reassure the people about their safety. He said: We would not have objected to the deployment of any Army force in al-Ashrafiyah were it not for what happened in the al-Matn regions.

On the reasons for the Lebanese Forces' insistence that a specific Army force take control of al-Ashrafiyah, Dr. Ja'ja' replied by posing three questions: Why does the 6th Brigade not deploy in the Southern Suburb? Why does the 11th Brigade not deploy in West Beirut? Why does the 12th Brigade not deploy in 'Alayh [on the mountain].

Dr. Ja'ja' explained that there is a crisis of confidence between the Lebanese Forces and certain state organs that were involved in the recent incidents in al-Matn. He said this reflected negatively on the state's image.

On the Lebanese Forces' stand on Walid Junblatt's proposal on the need for the state to resolve the issue of the militias, Dr. Ja'ja' said he agrees with Junblatt in this connection.

Al-Huss Comments on Greater Beirut Plan

NC2111154290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Receiving a delegation from the Press Syndicate Council at noon today, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said the Greater Beirut plan is the subject of varied contacts which we hope will lead to a positive conclusion. He added that some obstacles may delay the process but will not halt it. He remarked that the importance of Greater Beirut lies in the fact that it is a starting point for everything. He said that in the next stage the Army will deploy in the South, where great responsibilities await the legitimate authorities in confronting the dangers of occupation and implementing the UN resolutions on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

Al-Hirawi Gives Independence Day Speech

NC2111192590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Address to the people by President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the occasion of Lebanon's independence day on 21 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] O Lebanese: In acknowledgement of our forefathers' sacrifices and in gratitude for their struggle to achieve independence and sovereignty and to free the national decisionmaking process, and out of our eagerness to honor this trust, it is our sacred duty to prove to our forefathers, our descendants, and ourselves that we are worthy of Lebanon.

Today we embark on a new era in our national history. It is our responsibility to build on what past generations achieved. This is the real recognition of their arduous efforts and the real meaning of independence in practice. This is the real duty which safeguards Lebanon's safety and civilization.

After long years of suffering and thousands of martyrs and victims whose blood watered the soil of the homeland, the Lebanese have begun to take pride in their independence and to hold firmly to Lebanon as their

homeland. Now that Lebanon's rights, independence, and future have been secured, the Lebanese have to set out to establish peace.

If past experience has embodied the achievement of the state's independence, with all the efforts involved in solidifying national unity and the accompanying setbacks and destruction since the mid-1970's, today we set out with more confidence, based on cohesion among the Lebanese, to build the state of independence and accord. We cooperate with all loyal brothers and friends who give unprecedented support to our national march. The results of this support have been evident in the past few days. Giant steps were taken in the direction of a Greater Beirut. The game of futile killing has stopped, Lebanese areas have been opened in various areas, and the Army and legitimate security forces have undertaken responsibility for security in these areas.

I had hoped that the Greater Beirut plan would be completed on the dawn of your national day, so that we could march on toward building the state and reconstructing the homeland. However, the vestiges of past crises, which had only grown worse for 15 years, required further preparation and treatment in a fatherly and responsible manner.

Greater Beirut is the end of the war. Greater Beirut is coming in accordance with the wishes of the Lebanese people and their confidence in the state. No one can hamper its implementation. We must rally around the state and unite.

Peace is not built by promises. Lebanon will not rise by words. This is the phase of great achievements, the phase of building Lebanon as it should be. It is the duty of every citizen to build Lebanon. The state is eager to give all citizens an equal chance to contribute to the homeland.

The Lebanese should end their silence, their wait-and-see attitude, and their hesitation. They should cast off their anxiety and embark on reconstruction. They should prove that they are masters of life as they are masters of sacrifice.

O Lebanese, if we are now preoccupied with issues of politics and weapons, this is because our top priority is to work to establish the state's authority throughout Lebanese territory through a strong and able Army that is capable of protecting the comprehensive national will.

I urge you to mobilize all your efforts and to marshal your ranks to begin the march of salvation, to embark on construction, and to formulate a creative concept for a new role for Lebanon. No economic incentives and no military arsenals can establish stability and security if the nation's sons do not work hard and honestly and if there is no cultural awakening compatible with your ancient history and the depth of your ambitions.

Parallel to this, we will build for you and with you an independent state, a state of institutions in which no one is above Lebanon or bigger than the state. The state is the sole protector and guarantor. All of us are in it, from it, and for it. It is the state of all Lebanese and all areas. All doors are open before all experienced and talented people. It is a state based on merit and not on short-term interests and personal considerations. It is a state of law and values. It is a state of freedoms where every citizen enjoys freedom of speech, opinion, and belief. Lebanon can only be built on democracy, and on dialogue and consultation. Lebanon can only survive on the basis of spiritual and national integration, integration which entrenches national unity. It is a state based on justice, which guarantees the principle of efficiency and loyalty. It is a state which can ensure the needs of the country, provide services, and find good solutions to problems. It is a state which will be the kind father of all the sons of the homeland and there is no intermediary between it and them.

I address the Army and the other legal security authorities. You bear a crucial responsibility in this march. O Lebanese Army, you provide an example of ethical behavior, integrity, discipline, and sacrifice for the homeland and citizens. You are the shield of the nation and its watchful eye in safeguarding security and defending the homeland's sovereignty.

As of today, we will no longer tolerate the Army being a group of brigades from this place or that. The Army must be the army of the homeland, from all Lebanon and for all Lebanon. It must protect the safety and security of all Lebanese.

O military men, your Army is composed of the sons of these people, and it is entrusted with safeguarding the rights and the interests of the Lebanese. The Army's mission is to defend the supremacy of law throughout Lebanese territory against hegemony by the (?individual). There will be no compromise with and no leniency toward those who want to destroy the state, divide the entity, and partition the united homeland. There will be no compromise with and no leniency toward those who carry illegal weapons. There will be no weapons except those carried by the legitimate organs. There will be no areas exclusively for this group or that. All Lebanon will be for all Lebanese.

It is the state's duty to protect the citizen from dangers. Therefore, there is no point in casting doubts or spreading lies about the Army as it makes its way toward accord. The state is resolved and loyal to the nationalist will and the collective agreement on the need to impose the legitimate authority over Lebanese soil. Declarations about consensus will be meaningless if they do not represent a consensus of goodwill to establish the state's authority before anything else.

The next stage will be one of full cooperation among all Lebanese. Dangers do not threaten any group above all others, and construction cannot be undertaken by any group above all others.

O military men, I will not hesitate to do anything that will remove the burdens and the pains from the shoulders of my people, or open the door to hope and confidence in life. I will not accept any solution that would be at the expense of Lebanon—the homeland, the state, and the entity.

I promise you that your state will withhold nothing from you. It will work to promote your nationalist integrity and to provide you with the necessary men and equipment.

O army of peace, you are faced with a great responsibility now that the legitimate security has been established and the state's and the law's sovereignty imposed on Beirut and other areas. We will set out together, in cooperation with the United Nations forces, in the direction of the south and the western al-Biqa' to establish peace and legitimate authority in these dear parts of our land which are still suffering under the Israeli occupation, so that our kinfolk can be embraced by the homeland and the state can regain control over all Lebanese territory.

O Lebanese, a stage has passed with its logic, concepts, slogans, and approaches. We are on the threshold of a new era. We need a new mentality and a new approach. Wars in Lebanon have distracted the Lebanese from Lebanon and from themselves. Let us all be preoccupied with providing services for the people in all cities and regions. The people want to live, so let them live.

I know that there are gaps, mistakes, or obstacles that might hinder your march. However, enlisting the efficient capabilities of all loyal citizens will contribute considerably to easing the sufferings and realizing the goals. Instead of letting others err or cause problems, let us all take part in paving the road of reconstruction and progress, so that we can rescue our homeland.

Greater Beirut is a first step towards reestablishing the desired state throughout Lebanon. Security, although an urgent need for all citizens, is not the ultimate objective. Consolidating security will reactivate the wheel of natural life and the cycle of work and production. We will thus put an end to bloodshed and decline. The country will recover its vitality on all levels. Confidence in Lebanon will be restored. This will encourage us to invite businessmen and international and Arab investors to return to Lebanon. Lebanon will again become a center of cultural and educational activity. Ingenuity and creativity will shine and Lebanon will recover its role in world civilization and human advancement.

Security is not just a military responsibility. The establishment of Greater Beirut is an embodiment of comprehensive national reconciliation, a transition from disintegration to unity, and an indication that you are qualified to govern the country. How can we recover the south when we cannot prove our worth to govern Beirut and other areas? We will disband the militias and find the proper solutions for them.

O Lebanese, enough talk about prerogatives and the new constitution. Today we are building a state of institutions. In any case, a constitution depends on its men. Constitutions do not build nations; they organize them. Men make history. Why are you distracted by rumors and for how long will you be preoccupied with feeble theories and suppositions?

We have a working program represented by the national accord document on which there has been national consensus. After establishing security and consolidating the state's sovereignty in Greater Beirut, we will form a new government that will include everything, so that everyone can participate in rebuilding a modern state and reconstructing the country. So that the institutions can become effective and until the state imposes its authority on all Lebanese territory, we will appoint new deputies to enable the younger generation to use all its potential to make a contribution through the state institutions. We are confident that in a short time we will able to hold general parliamentary elections throughout Lebanon.

O Lebanese, you must follow the march of security, reconstruction, and development. As you proceed on the path of peace, assurances about aid to Lebanon will come. Let us give a good example. How can others help us if we do not help ourselves by avoiding the path of confusion and decline and following the path of development and reconstruction? Have confidence in yourselves and your state. Lebanon, despite everything, is forging ahead toward salvation.

I express thanks and gratitude to brothers and friends for their support, especially sister Syria led by His Excellency brother President Hafiz al-Asad, who has spared no sacrifice to restore to Lebanon its unity, vitality, and sovereignty. Lebanon will remain loyal to every hand that extended support to it.

O Lebanese, your land and fields are looking at you. Your factories and shops are waiting for you. Your schools and universities are calling to you. Your farms have yearned for you. The squares of towns and villages have missed your children.

O Lebanese, wherever you are: This is your homeland. Build it. May you live long and long live Lebanon.

Ja'ja', Government Negotiate Militia Withdrawal

NC2111213890 Paris AFP in English 2101 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nov 21 (AFP)—Lebanon's strongest militia said Wednesday it had reached an agreement with the government to begin withdrawing from Beirut, but officials said the negotiations were still under way. "We agreed on all the details," in discussions with the government Tuesday, said Lebanese Forces (LF) militia leader Samir Ja'ja about practical steps to be implemented in the next few hours.

But an official source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE late Wednesday that "negotiations are ongoing in a bid to reach a final agreement and we hope to achieve this in coming hours."

A source close to Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said the LF had not yet given the government its answer regarding the disbanding of its forces in its last stronghold to clear the last hurdle to the capital's reunification after 15 years of division.

The agreement, if reached, would come on the eve of the 47th commemoration of Lebanon's independence. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Concerned Over Beirut Plan Delay

NC2211082490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] A responsible Hizballah source has expressed concern at the delay in implementing Greater Beirut and said: We have previously expressed our concern over the Phalangist forces' maneuvers to rid the Greater Beirut plan of its substantive content, which gives the people security. The government's hesitation in resolving the situation is a suspect attempt to accommodate the conditions that have been made. This reinforces our concern and makes us feel that the government is still adhering to the policies of the previous regime. This gives the impression that the government is not treating the Lebanese areas and political forces equally.

The source added: We could have imposed big conditions, but our concern for the implementation of a plan that would give the people security prompted us to put aside all these matters. Today we register our rejection of any conditions which obstruct the implementation of Greater Beirut within the specified period. The government's hesitation in dealing with the obstacles could abort the entire plan. The government will then bear the responsibility for the plan's failure.

The source emphasized Hizballah's rejection of any unequal treatment of the Lebanese areas and political forces.

No Government Concessions Expected on Plan

NC2211084590 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] As part of the efforts to implement the Greater Beirut plan, President Ilyas al-Hirawi met with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss last night. They decided to call on the cabinet to hold an extraordinary session tomorrow, Friday, to discuss the latest developments and adopt the appropriate decision.

Meanwhile, government sources have noted that the state's plan is clear and that there is no going back on the Army's deployment, for this would be tantamount to making concessions in favor of one party or another. The sources said: The plan has been drawn up in such a way as to give equal consideration to the apprehensions and demands of all the parties. Therefore, there is no going back on it.

The sources indicated that any procrastination in responding to this plan would be regarded as the beginning of a rebellion against the state's plan and its authority and would be dealt with appropriately.

The sources said that the state guarantees political freedom, acts to preserve personal freedom, and nothing more. The state has nothing to do with party differences, the sources said, emphasizing that the matter will be dealt with decisively on Friday. If the Lebanese Forces have begun to withdraw, that would be a positive development, otherwise the appropriate decision to impose the state's authority will be made.

Meanwhile, Samir Ja'ja' chaired a meeting of the Lebanese Forces Command yesterday evening. The meeting continued past midnight. During the meeting, Nadir Sukkar [Lebanese Forces Command Council member] traveled to the western area more than once with proposals and returning with responses to them. As of dawn today the Lebanese Forces' stand had not yet been defined.

Officials Comment on Greater Beirut Plan

NC2211100190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Official, political, diplomatic, and union figures are continuing to arrive at the temporary presidential headquarters where President al-Hirawi, Speaker al-Husayni, and Prime Minister al-Huss are receiving congratulations on independence day.

Defense Minister Albert Mansur has declared that Greater Beirut will be implemented tonight. He described it as the independence day present.

Minister George Sa'adah has said: The Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist Party have no conditions for implementing the Greater Beirut plan. The decision has been made and will be implemented. The state must be stronger than everyone else.

Minister 'Ali al-Khalil has declared that the Greater Beirut plan will be implemented without amendments or changes.

Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir noted that the goal will be complete when the south is liberated and a strong and capable state is established. Al-Dahir praised the Arab and international support which was manifested before, during, and after the al-Ta'if conference.

Deputy Farid Jubran hoped that the independence day anniversary would serve as a further impetus toward a new Lebanon. He noted the need for introducing political and social changes.

Deputy Pierre Hilu hoped that the independence day anniversary would serve as a day for comprehensive reconciliation among all the Lebanese. He maintained that Greater Beirut is the demand of all the Lebanese.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Latif al-Zayn hoped that the legitimate government would be able to impose its authority over all Lebanese territory.

Deputy Butrus Harb called for the need to implement independence through all the efforts being made. He maintained that the hardships suffered by Lebanon should guide all the Lebanese. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Says Soldiers Not Kidnapped

NC2111201490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The Information Department of the Defense Ministry's military room has issued the following clarification: Some media organs have reported that Sergeant Jabbur Sa'adah of the 57th Battalion and Corporal Jiryis (?Hasakah) of the Jabal Lubnan general headquarters were kidnapped by gunmen. The truth of the matter is that the two soldiers are being detained at the military police regiment for disciplinary reasons and so were not the victims of any kidnapping. The Information Department reiterates its call for the media to be certain of its facts before publishing reports concerning the military institution.

VOL Reports Hubayqah Groups Continue Attacks

NC2211172390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Elie Hubayqah has refused to instruct his group to prepare a complete inventory of the equipment, vehicles, weapons, and documents his gunmen seized when they exploited the abnormal circumstances that accompanied the operation launched on 13 October 1990 [removal of General 'Awn].

The Hubayqah group has threatened a number of Phalangist Party members in certain areas of southern al-Matn and warned them against attempting to regain control of their offices and thus resume their normal political activities. Nimr 'Abbud and a number of Hubayqah gunmen attacked the home of Jean Tawil, head of the al-Shiyah Phalangist Party office, and threatened to kill him. This group also damaged and looted equipment in the Phalangist Party office in al-Judaydah despite the presence of a Lebanese Army force nearby.

In addition, gunmen in military uniform traveling in a Toyota Corolla kidnapped Joseph Amin Yunis from the al-Hayat Hospital intersection in Galerie Sam'an and released him after stealing 600,000 Lebanese pounds and seizing his white Toyota truck loaded with 116 gas cylinders. Gunmen impounded a white Mercedes 230 from George Shakar on Ghannun Street in 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

Throughout the day yesterday, the Hubayqah group operated armed patrols in a white BMW 733, license plate number 86615, and a white BMW 320, license plate number 8181, in the al-Zalqa area. According to eyewitnesses, politically provocative slogans were painted on walls in that area.

Lebanese Forces Reportedly Kidnap Army Corporal

NC2211184190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] The Ja'ja' [Lebanese] Forces are continuing their terrorist acts against the citizens and Army personnel.

The latest victim of a wave of kidnappings was commando Corporal Paul Dakkash. He was abducted in the al-'Uqaybah are today as he was going to visit his family and has yet to be released.

The Lebanese Forces have kidnapped more than six people, both civilians and Lebanese Army personnel, and the fate of a number of them remains unkown.

Greater Beirut Plan Officially Implemented

NC2311065590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Greater Beirut has been officially declared in a statement issued by the ministerial committee, which affirmed that it has accomplished the tasks entrusted to it by the Cabinet. The committee said that Greater Beirut has been realized following an agreement reached with all the parties concerned and that the implementation has entered the practical stage. The committee called on the citizens and all the parties concerned to help and abide by the measures for the imposition of the authority of the state and the law so that the accomplished steps would be a model for the peace agreement.

The committee's statement explained that the Army is ready to deploy in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The Army's deployment in Greater Beirut will be preceded by the return of the confiscated party centers and offices in the two al- Matn regions to their legitimate owners, effective at 0900 today.

The Cabinet will follow the implementation of Greater Beirut with a session today under President Ilyas al-Hirawi's chairmanship.

Defense Minister Albert Mansur, who met with Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni yesterday, affirmed that all obstacles facing Greater Beirut have been removed and that all the preparations have been made for the implementation of the plan.

Al-Husayni, Al-Huss Meet With Ibrahimi

NC2211202190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni this evening received Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, who conveyed congratulations on independence day. During the meeting, they discussed the political and security situation and the latest developments in the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan.

Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss also received Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi at his residence this evening. Ibrahimi extended congratulations on the independence anniversary. A review of the general situation was conducted during the meeting.

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Formation of Government

PM2211101990 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 16 Nov 90 p 14

[Interview with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni by Faysal Qawwas in Beirut; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Qawwas] How do you view the present situation in the Gulf region? Is it heading toward war or a peaceful solution?

[Al-Husayni] I am not acquainted with the details of international and regional affairs in a way that would enable me to give a firm answer to that question. But my view is that the Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait have fallen into a real trap, as they cannot remain in Kuwait, nor can they withdraw easily in view of the trap in which Iraq finds itself, especially with respect to the Iraqi people. Thus these forces are in a real trap whose results cannot be predicted. [passage omitted]

[Qawwas] Some people cast doubt on the possibility of the [Lebanese] national accord document's clauses being implemented fully and believe that implementation of some clauses will be obstructed. What is your opinion?

[Al-Husayni] The war has ended forever, the march is continuing, and the steps are being implemented as scheduled, that is despite the doubt which has been cast on every step since before the Casablanca summit. Some even doubted whether that summit would be held. It was held, so they started to cast doubt on its ability to adopt real resolutions. But it endorsed the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies' overview of a solution to the Lebanese crisis. Doubt was also cast on the ability of the Arab high tripartite committee emanating from the Casablanca summit to secure a cease-fire, lift the blockades, and open the crossing points. All these steps were implemented. They doubted the possibility of calling the deputies to a meeting, so the deputies were called to al-Ta'if. They doubted the possibility of the deputies' responding to the call, but the deputies responded positively. Then they doubted whether the deputies would be able to reach an agreement, but the deputies did reach an agreement, returned to Lebanese territory, elected the Chamber of Deputies speaker and voted on the document in a constitutional way, and elected a new president for the republic. But President Mu'awwad was assassinated, and that was the biggest blow to progress. Then a new president was elected before President Mu'awwad was buried. Then the national accord government was formed, and it is now moving step by step as scheduled, and these doubts—fabricated or justified—have caused no obstruction. [Passage omitted]

[Qawwas] The Zionist enemy joined the obstruction line immediately after the announcement of the implementation of the greater Beirut plan. Do you believe that the enemy is working to obstruct implementation of Resolution 425 concerning the unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon, especially as enemy Defense Minister Arens insists on not withdrawing from Jazzin? He said that Israel will not allow the Lebanese Government to restore its control over the town of Jazzin in the South.

[Al-Husayni] It is no secret that Israel has been seeking from the outset to hit the Lebanese formula based on coexistence among all the Lebanese groups and to hit the Lebanese structure, which conflicts with Israel's racist formula and entity. Thus we still experience the Israeli schemes designed to fragment Lebanon in preparation for fragmenting the Arab region as a whole. Nor is it any secret that Israel has always wanted the Lebanese crisis to continue. It continues to stir up chauvinism and wants the infighting among the Lebanese to continue. [passage omitted]

We believe that at the present stage Israel is unable to obstruct the march of the Lebanese, Arab, and international consensus. And if Israel had been able to do so, it would have obstructed the previous steps. I believe that these attempts are taking place in an international climate that is not suitable for Israel's schemes and efforts to hit the salvation march. I also believe that the major international powers are discharging and will continue to discharge their duty to stop Israel from hitting the salvation march. [passage omitted]

[Qawwas] Your Excellency, Mr. Speaker, what about the case of General Michel 'Awn?

[Al-Husayni] Gen. Michel 'Awn is not in question. Gen 'Awn was the Army commander and was never a target. The aim is to restore the intrinsic forces to the state to enable it to extend its authority over Lebanese territory as a whole. When they started to implement that step, the former Army commander continued to hold a part of those intrinsic forces and part of Lebanese territory—which prompted his removal. He is now at the French Embassy, and we are not rushing matters. And I believe that officials will deal with that subject according to the Council of Ministers' decisions about Gen. Michel 'Awn's referral to the judicial council—the only body which has the powers to decide on the actions attributed to Gen. Michel 'Awn. [passage omitted]

[Qawwas] There are reports about attempts to obstruct the formation of a new government or disagreements here and there. Will a new government be formed before the end of the year or at the beginning of next year?

[Al-Husayni] When we came to al-Qulay'at, elected the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, voted on the national accord document, and elected a new president for the republic, the fourth step was the formation of the national accord government. And, as we recall, President Mu'awwad was assassinated at that period, so we hastened to elect a new president, namely President Ilyas al-Hirawi, the present incumbent, who espoused the parliamentary consultations initiated by the late President Mu'awwad. Then he entrusted Prime Minister Salim al-Huss with forming a government. In the very morning of the day on which we elected President al-Hirawi, Prime Minister al-Huss formed a government. At that time the formation of a government was a separate objective or step. But now it is now a means, not an objective. Thus we say that we are now examining whether it is useful to speed up the formation of a new government, expand it, or reshuffle it to extend the state's authority over Lebanese territory, proceeding from the greater Beirut plan. The government issue is being examined from the viewpoint of the objectives under study, namely in terms of whether it should be formed speedily or slowly to avert any cabinet crisis. This is in the knowledge that, in accordance with the national accord document, we are committed to the need to include all parties in power and in political life.

[Qawwas] Including militia leaders?

[Al-Husayni] Of course, even militia leaders, because the objective is to disband the militias, collect the arms, and hold new parliamentary elections through which we refer to the Lebanese people as the only entity capable of determining who should be represented in the stage ahead. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad To Meet Bush in Geneva 23 Nov

JN2111163890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1632 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just received the following: As a result of contacts between the governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United States of America, it has been decided that Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and George Bush will meet in Geneva on 23 November 1990. The two presidents will discuss a number of regional and international issues.

Paper Notes Importance of Al-Asad, Bush Meeting

JN2211071890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "On the Eve of the Expected Geneva Meeting," the newspaper AL-BA'TH stresses in its editorial today that the scheduled meeting tomorrow between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and George Bush comes at a time of serious regional and international developments. The world is witnessing major and sharp turning points, and the Middle East, in particular, is going through the most serious phase in its contemporary history.

After noting the importance that has been given to the news of the meeting since the moment it was announced, the paper stresses that this clearly points to the maximum importance that the regional and international political circles attach to the outcome of the meeting and on the Syrian Arab role in the region's issues. The paper adds: When Syria moves and addresses this international party or that, it proceeds from a position of mutual respect and full awareness of the balances of power in the world. Syria also proceeds from its ability to achieve the objectives it has persistently and consistently sought.

AL-BA'TH adds: At any rate, the Geneva meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and George Bush gives yet further proof that Syria addresses and talks with all international sides with much realism and on the basis of its pan-Arab principles. Concluding, the paper says that through its efforts, Syria has provided and is providing a great service to the Arab cause and the entire region. It has never sought an international meeting except for the purpose of serving pan-Arab interests and securing all means for the success and victory of the Arab cause. This is how Syria was in the past, and this is how it is today, and how it will be tomorrow.

Al-Zu'bi on U.S.-Zionist Attempt To Use Crisis

JN2111222190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Al-Hasakah/East Syria, 21 Nov (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has asserted that Syria is always called on, in light of the many challenges, to be prepared to confront circumstances, events, and expansionist Israeli schemes. In a speech today at the inauguration of the 7th April and 8th March dams in al-Hasakah Governorate, al-Zu'bi spoke about the great economic development in Syria over the past 20 years. He added that since 16 November 1970, Syrians have been accustomed to move forward, not to retreat.

He said that our celebrations today on the inauguration of the first stage of the al-Khabur project is a link in the series of great achievements in water supply and agriculture through which Syria tightens its control over its river and basin waters which had been wasted before. [passage omitted]

On the situation in the Gulf, al-Zu'bi said: The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait dragged the foreign armies in and stirred up the international community. He stated that the consequences of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait have faced the Arabs with definite responsibilities that require their solidarity, unity, and hard work to remove the excuse that has put the region on the mouth of a volcano.

He also said that observance of emergency Arab resolutions, respect for the will of the international community, and withdrawal from Kuwait are the way to allow Arabs to tackle the current situation and control the course of events. This will also save the region and the people of Iraq from the consequences of this serious situation.

Al Zu'bi said that Syria is aware of what is going on; it realizes that the flow of U.S. aid to Israel—modern weapons, financial aid, and other aid—constitutes in Syria's pan-Arab view an American-Zionist attempt to employ the Gulf crisis in a way that will achieve Israel's ambitions to help it absorb the heavy Jewish immigration through aggression and expansion.

He declared that to face this Zionist plan the Arabs must look more closely into it and its objectives, and act with comprehensive Arab responsibility. [passage omitted]

More Aid for Israel 'Paradox' of U.S. Policy

JN2111183290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1721 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Damascus, 21 Nov (SANA)—Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, regional assistant secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has reasserted that Arab Syria considers the Palestine question the Arabs' first cause and top pan-Arab concern, and that any deliberate action to replace it with any other issue or problem is an exposed conspiracy and a suspect and denounced stance.

Speaking today at the opening ceremony of the fifth general conference of the Syrian Pharmacists Union on behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad, sponsor of the conference, comrade Qaddah said that opposition to the Zionist enemy is the basis of Arab action and the pivot of pan-Arab endeavors, especially at this critical stage in the history of the Arab nation, when the aggressiveness of the Zionist enemy is increasing, its expansionist

dreams are coming to the fore, and the organized Jewish immigration is flowing in so as to contribute to its aggressive, expansionist schemes, and to make it cling more to its occupation of territories and displacement of people. [passage omitted]

Comrade Qaddah explained that the acts of this tragedy are being played out while the Arabs are preoccupied with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which tempted the Zionist enemy to further shed Arab blood and to press ahead with its schemes and reap the fruits of the fragmented, disintegrated Arab situation.

He added that in this context, the United States has used the Gulf crisis as a pretext to lavish huge amounts of money on the Israeli enemy to help settle new Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories and to supply it with the most sophisticated destructive weapons.

The regional assistant secretary asserted that the increasing U.S. support for and full-blown, absolute bias toward the Zionist enemy represents a major paradox in its equivocal stance, and direct encouragement of the Zionist enemy to aggression. He also noted that this stance is flagrantly at odds with American policy which claims it is eager to establish peace and stability in the region.

Comrade Qaddah also explained that the United States' unlimited support of the Israeli enemy constitutes a blatant challenge to the Arab nation and entails an imminent danger that threatens the Arabs and encourages occupiers to pursue aggression, suppress the kinsfolk, and occupy territories. [passage omitted]

Comrade Qaddah also spoke about the woeful consequences of the disaster threatening the Arab nation as a result of the Iraqi regime's invasion of the sisterly State of Kuwait and the Iraqi regime's insistence in pursuing its action despite Arab and international condemnation and denunciation by all the world's governments, peoples, and organizations of the invasion and its disgraceful outcome. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Meets With Lebanese Speaker Al-Husayni

JN2211102090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] At 1315 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. They talked about the situation in Lebanon and the steps needed to achieve national accord.

Bulgarian Minister Discusses Execution of Projects

JN2211120390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 19 Nov (SANA)—Bulgarian Construction and Architecture Minister Ivan Krustev, who is visiting Syria, today held a series of meetings to bolster economic cooperation between Syria and Bulgaria.

Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning, received Mr. Krustev, who was accompanied by Deputy Foreign Economic Relations Minister Stefan Polendakov and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus, and discussed with him bilateral relations and prospects for cooperation, especially through the Syrian-Bulgarian joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

A common desire for continued enhancement of future economic cooperation in the interests of the two countries was emphasized, and past achievements under the joint agreements and protocols were praised.

The Bulgarian side also discussed with Industry Minister Antoine Jubran the projects agreed to be executed in Syria through Syrian-Bulgarian cooperation. The need for speedy execution of these projects was stressed, as work on some of them had been obstructed for some time. The al-Hasakah Dam, built through Syrian-Bulgarian cooperation, is expected to be inaugurated soon. There are other projects under execution; namely, building two wine factories in Hims and al- Suwayda', equipping the aseptic tomato paste reservoirs at Jablah and Dar'a companies, and the soft drink filling line at Buqayn. All these projects will be financed by the loan agreement with Bulgaria. Some other projects will be executed in return for commodities exported to Bulgaria.

Confers With Al-Zu'bi

JN2211121390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1000 today Ivan Krustev—Bulgarian minister of construction, architecture, and urban works—and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Irrigation Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Rahman al-Madani and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the visiting minister conveyed the greetings and good wishes of Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov to al-Zu'bi, who asked him to convey his greetings and good wishes to him in return.

The talks dealt with the cooperation relations between Syria and Bulgaria and the projects being implemented within it. The prime minister was briefed on the Bulgarian minister's talks in Damascus and stressed their importance. Talks also dealt with means to develop cooperation in all economic fields between the two friendly countries.

Cypriot Delegation Arrives in Damascus 22 Nov

JN2311083090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Excerpts] A Cypriot parliamentary delegation arrived in Damascus yesterday at 2130 headed by Dr. Vassos Lyssarides, president of the House of Representatives, on a four-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic at the invitation of the People's Assembly. [passage omitted] In a statement to the SANA [SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY] correspondent Dr. Lyssarides expressed his joy over visiting Syria. He said: Syria is a good friend of the Cypriot people. Past historic relations and strong current relations bind us together. He said: I am looking forward to meeting the Syrian friends to exchange opinions and views on some important issues. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Nationals Stranded at Iraq-Turkey Border

BK2211141390 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] One hundred forty-five Bangladeshis are among the several thousand South Asians awaiting clearance from Iraqi authorities to enter Turkey with their cars at the Iraq-Turkey border.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka on Wednesday [21 November] all these South Asians from Kuwait gathered at the border and were stranded there because Iraq has so far refused to give them permission to leave with their transports. The spokesman said the Bangladeshis with 40 cars are passing agonizing days. The government has already advised them to return home without their cars.

Solution to Problems With India Hoped For

BK2211142190 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Nov 90 p 5

The change of government in New Delhi, the third in the space of about three years, has come on the heels of a turmoil triggered in special by the Hindu fundamentalists wanting to build a temple at the site of a 500-year-old mosque at Ayodhya. Mr. V.P. Singh's stout administrative steps prevented the construction, but not without losing the support of the biggest single party, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], in his minority government. Mr. V.P. Singh's government collapsed on the floor of the house on Wednesday [7 November]. The new government is headed by the veteran politician, Chandra Shekhar who, along with some of his followers, broke ranks with the National Front (Janata Dal) and has formed a government mainly with the support of 195-member-strong Congress-I. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said he would extend support to Mr. Chandra Shekhar's government from outside.

Given the history of recent development in Indian politics, yet another minority government at the centre leaning so vulnerably on Congress-I support would have to steer most circumspectly to ensure its stability as well as to face up to the challenges that confront the new government. With this built-in fragility and the need to shore it up, more time and attention might have to be given to survival than solving problems or facing challenges. One thing that promises to be most difficult for the new government to practise is firmness of purpose in dealing, in the first place, with the newfangled forces of fundamentalism or in making policy decisions on very pressing internal and external questions. For the moment they are chiefly two: (1) relations with Pakistan and the situation in Kashmir, (2) internally stemming the rise of Hindu fundamentalism putting at risk Indian secular philosophy and national integrity. Such issues (apart from others like the Sikh separatist one) would need to have a government at the centre that could firmly act and stay in power long enough to see its decision through.

Changes so far, though, in much of Indian politics, the latest one in particular, has owed much to horse-trading and expediency than the time-old Indian tradition of democracy and national harmony. It is interesting that the one lone effort at political idealism along traditional lines of a secular India launched by V.P. Singh cost him his government while marking him out as a relentless leader that would rather go down fighting for principles than how to narrow communal and sectarian forces threatening to tear the country apart.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar in his initial observations following his swearing in as Prime Minister repeated generalities such as fighting against fear and insecurity in preference to specifics. But Mr. Chandra Shekhar is one of the seasoned political leaders of contemporary India, well-aware of the real challenges facing him and his country, and able to demonstrate to his people (particularly the minorities) that he could rise to the demands of the time and, if he meant what he said, those in far of persecution and injustice inside the country would have no cause for it.

Himself a socialist and politically toughened by experience, he should be able to face down the divisive forces in his country and do something positive to improve relations with his neighbours, particularly Pakistan and Bangladesh. The main dispute with the former (Pakistan) would get more smoothly sorted out were it put in the right perspective of history consonant with the democratic mandate of the people. A weak and poor neighbour, Bangladesh would look for a fair and just solution to the outstanding problems, including the Ganges water distribution among others.

Opposition Urges Military To Remain Neutral

BK2111154890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 21 (AFP)—Opposition leaders Wednesday called on Bangladesh's security forces not to oppose the campaign against President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

"We have nothing against the armed forces or the security agencies and I appeal to you to remain neutral during our democratic campaign," said Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the opposition Awami League at a rally in downtown Dhaka.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Begum Khaleda Zia went farther, suggesting that the security forces should support the opposition campaign against the president.

"Our brothers in the armed forces and other security agencies should stop cooperating with the present regime to protect an individual and join the people," he said.

The two leaders also announced a nationwide blockade of roads and railways for 72 hours from December 10.

Earlier, Armed Forces Day celebrations took place in Bangladesh after the mainstream opposition groups called off a planned nationwide strike.

In a rare appeal to the opposition groups Saturday, the armed forces had said the strike planned for Tuesday and Wednesday would interfere with the Armed Forces Day.

The opposition responded by reducing the stoppage to 24 hours Tuesday.

Sheikh Hasina, for the first time in recent years, paid tribute to the war dead in a statement published Wednesday.

Both Sheikh Hasina and Mrs. Khaleda Zia said they had respected the armed forces' appeal and urged the armed forces to reciprocate by respecting the opposition campaign.

At least one boy was killed and 100 people injured during Tuesday's strike. The injured included the son of Mrs. Khaleda Zia, whose home was attacked.

Police arrested a retired army officer late Tuesday in connection with the incident, the official BSS News Agency said Wednesday.

The officer allegedly entered Mrs. Khaleda Zia's house while she was absent and attacked her son, party sources said.

The BNP said it was an assassination attempt.

The government issued a statement Wednesday saying the man apparently went to the house for a "hartal (strike) pass."

"It appears from his conduct that he is mentally ill," the statement said.

The statement said: "It does not appear that there is any political motive behind the incident" and added that "action against him will proceed as per existing law."

The authorities strengthened security measures at Mrs. Khaleda Zia's house, sources said.

Meanwhile, student activists torched two cars, including one belonging to an unidentified embassy, during anti-government violence Wednesday which left several people injured, witnesses said.

Mrs. Khaleda Zia also accused Mr. Ershad for the first time of conspiring to kill her husband, former president Ziaur Rahman, who was killed in a 1981 military coup, but she did not elaborate.

Mr. Ershad, a former army general, is in the Maldives for the summit of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, which began Wednesday.

Bangladesh, formerly east Pakistan, became independent in 1971 after a nine-month war of secession against Islamabad.

Antigovernment Student Protest Leaves One Dead

BK2211051290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0503 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 22 (AFP)—At least one man died and 50 people were injured in clashes between opposition student activists and police as well as ruling party supporters in several parts of Bangladesh, newspapers here reported Thursday.

One ruling Jatiya Party (JP) supporter died of his injuries in a hospital in northeastern Sylhet District Wednesday, reports said, adding that the man was injured November 19 during clashes with opposition student activists.

In the district's Zindabazar and Bandarbazar areas some 30 people, mostly students, were injured when police baton charged and fired tear gas shells to disperse a militant procession of the All Party Students Unity (APSU) Wednesday.

The students demanded the resignation of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and condemned the attack on a opposition leader's house Tuesday.

Also Wednesday, JP supporters opened fire and set off home-made bombs at an APSU rally in Bogra District, injuring 15 people, newspapers said.

In Barisal, APSU activists set ablaze a government vehicle during a demonstration Wednesday and five people were hurt when students briefly clashed with police, reports added.

The APSU, formed soon after the October 10 anti-government agitation that left at least six dead and scores injured, comprises several opposition student wings and is playing an important role in the current campaign to oust Mr. Ershad.

Mr. Ershad, Bangladesh's longest serving head of state, seized power in a 1982 military coup.

India

Anti-Submarine Operation Plan Revealed

BK2211040990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] The Indian Navy is strengthening its anti-submarine capability. Besides, it is also opting for more off-shore patrol vessels being indigenously built at the Hindustan Shipyard. This was disclosed by Vice Admiral S. Jain, flag officer commanding chief of the Western Naval Command, while addressing a press conference on board an aircraft carrier. He said three warships will be built during the current plan period. A

Sea King helicopter will be commissioned soon to provide additional anti-submarine warfare capability to the Navy, he added.

Judicial Inquiry Sought for 21 Nov Incident

BK2211170390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] The Press Association of India and some other organizations of the press corps have demanded a judicial inquiry into yesterday's incidents at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] in which, according to them, media persons were brutally attacked by the security staff. Representatives of the Press Association of India, Delhi Union of Journalists, News Cameramen Association and Working News Cameramen Association today called on the minister of state for home and information and broadcasting, Mr. Subodh Kant Shay, and gave representations to him.

They also criticized Doordarshan [television] and All India Radio for what they said was distortion of news about the incident. They said the impression given by the electronic media in its coverage was that the journalists and photographers reached late for covering the ceremony and created trouble. They claimed that the reporters and cameramen had reached one hour before the schedule for the ceremony, but arrangements were such that they were barred entry.

Delhi Union of Journalists alleged that this was a deliberate mismanagement by organizers resulting in denying the media opportunity to cover an important political occasion and they were physically assaulted.

Our correspondent recalls that All India Radio, in its news bulletin yesterday, had said that according to the security staff, most journalists and cameramen were late in reaching the Rashtrapati Bhavan for covering the swearing-in ceremony and were refused entry inside Ashoka Hall. However, the claim of the journalists that no specific time was given to them to reach the Rashtrapati Bhavan was also broadcast by AIR. The All India Freelance Journalists and Writers Association in a separate letter to the minister has also condemned yesterday's incidents and demanded action against those responsible for what it said [were] excesses against the press.

State Wants Restoration of Diesel, Petrol Cut

BK2111155590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The Himachal Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Shanta Kumar, has urged the central government to allocate additional diesel and petrol to the state and also restore the cut imposed. He said the state is entirely dependent on road transport and nonavailability of (?these) products will adverse affect the distribution of essential goods and development process.

Diesel Shortage, Supply Situation Reported

BK2211161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] The availability of diesel is expected to improve within seven to 10 days as fresh import consignments are expected shortly, official sources said in New Delhi today. The government has already dispatched additional supply of about 50,000 tons of high speed diesel last week to ease the pressure on retail outlets. It expects import consignments of 125,000 tons of diesel to arrive before the end of this month and another 560,000 tons next month. Most parts of the country, including the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Madras, Calcutta, and Bombay, have been experiencing shortage of diesel and long queues have been seen at the petrol pumps during the last 10 days.

New Finance Minister Views Economic Situation

BK2211100090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 22 Nov 90

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 22 (AFP)—India's new finance minister has threatened tough action to pull the nation out of what he called a "very, very difficult" economic legacy left by the ousted government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Less than a year ago, Mr. V.P. Singh said he had inherited "empty coffers," Yashwant Sinha recalled.

"The country has today been driven to a point where you open the coffers to find the words 'I owe you'," Mr. Sinha said in a conversation with journalists here late Wednesday, hours after assuming office.

Mr. Sinha, 51, said the Chandra Shekhar government had inherited a "very, very difficult economic situation" requiring harsh remedial steps.

"The message of austerity must go out loud and clear," he said. "This will mean cutting down all wasteful, ostentatious and unnecessary expenditure."

"I mean business," he said, adding that Indians should be prepared to tighten their belts and make sacrifices.

The former bureaucrat holding his first public office said his priority would be to control spiralling prices, then turn to reducing widening balance of payments by boosting value-added exports and cutting imports.

He said he planned to introduce special investment and deposit schemes to lure money from rich indians living overseas.

Mr. Sinha gave no substantive figures to back up the gloomy picture he painted of the economy, which has slumped mainly as a result of falling revenues and a steep rise in India's oil import bill because of the Gulf crisis.

His predecessor Madhu Dandavate said in an interview earlier this month that the brunt of the burden would be borne by the new government, which took office in the wake of a political crisis.

"Herculean efforts will be needed to put the economy back on the rails," Mr. Dandavate said.

A non-official mid-year review of the economy released this month said inflation was expected to rise to 12 to 13 per cent in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 1991.

Prices of food staples such as sugar, pulses, edible oil, tea, onions and potatoes have increased 35 to 100 per cent in the past two years.

The budgetary deficit is now likely to surpass the 100 billion rupees (5.55 billion dollars) against the pre-Gulf crisis estimate of 72 billion rupees (four billion dollars).

The balance of payments deficit, according to the review, would worsen by three billion dollars as a result of the petroleum price hike and the loss of remittances in foreign exchange from hundreds of thousands of indians employed in the Gulf.

The trade deficit widened to 1.75 billion in the first four months of the current fiscal year, and few expect the government's export target of 20 billion dollars to be acnieved.

Cuts in capital goods imports and oil consumption to beat back the fiscal crisis forced by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait is expected to result in an industrial slowdown.

The finance minister said India would honour all its repayment obligations on an aggregate foreign debt estimated at 69.7 billion dollars despite its domestic difficulties.

The Paris-based club of wealthy nations, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), has put India's interest payments this year at about 2.4 billion dollars.

The finance minister said the government has yet to study the implications of borrowing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to tide itself over the difficulties.

"Politically speaking, (loan) conditions assume considerable importance and no country would like to place itself in a situation where it would have the onus of (meeting) conditions," he said.

Stock markets slumped Wednesday with industrial shares suffering a setback and brokers blamed Mr. Sinha's appointment as finance minister.

Punjab Governor Outlines Peace Proposal

BK2111165490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1645 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 21 (AFP)—Punjab's governor said Wednesday he had worked out a peace plan designed to end seven years of Sikh militancy there as 28 people died in renewed violence in the northern Indian state.

Rival Hindu-Sikh communal tensions gripped Punjab's Amritsar City Wednesday over a massacre of 13 people gunned down by Sikh militants, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

PTI said the 28 dead in latest violence included 12 suspected militants shot in gunfire exchanges with security forces and one security trooper and 13 civilians shot by militants.

In addition, two unidentified men were shot dead by border forces when they illegally entered Punjab from Pakistan, officials were quoted by PTI as saying.

Governor Virendra Verma told reporters here that he had outlined his plan on Punjab to Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, involving a major territorial concession.

Mr. Verma did not reveal details, but said he favoured the transfer of Chandigarh city to Punjab, where more than 3,000 people have died in the Sikh separatist campaign so far this year.

Moderate Sikh politicians have been demanding transfer of Chandigarh, presently shared by Punjab and neighbouring Haryana states as their capital, exclusively to Punjab, the only Sikh- majority Indian state.

Chandigarh's transfer to Punjab was the cornerstone of a peace pact signed by Sikh moderates and former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's government in 1985. However, the accord collapsed because of Haryana's opposition.

Mr. Verma, a Hindu who took over June 14, said Haryana could be compensated for giving up Chandigarh and that he would discuss the details of his plan with Mr. Shekhar on Saturday.

He said the plan involved three broad issues—a political solution, economic development of Punjab and steps to tackle Sikh separatism as a law enforcement problem.

Mr. Verma said the separatist campaign could not be ended with a "bullet-for-bullet" policy.

At the same time, he said he had asked for 5,000 more federal paramilitary troops to reinforce the estimated 30,000 already deployed in the state bordering Pakistan.

Police were quoted by PTI as saying they had shot dead four Sikh gunmen who struck at two places in Amritsar City Tuesday, leaving 13 people dead, including one who died of injuries later.

The four chased by police based on clues given by witnesses were killed in a gunfight outside a Babekear "gurdwara" (Sikh shrine) elsewere in the city.

Violence erupted during the cremation of the victims of overnight militant strikes Wednesday with rival Hindu and Sikh groups pelting stones and attacking each other with swords and long iron rods.

Police intervention brought the situation soon under control, PTI said. It did not say if anyone was seriously injured or killed.

A two-hour curfew was imposed in Amritsar during the cremation.

India accuses Pakistan of aiding the Sikh militancy, which is rejected by Islamabad.

Sikh separatists have stepped up the bloody campaign for a theocratic homeland called Khalistan (Land of the Pure) since India's new Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar took over November 10 in the wake of a political crisis that toppled his predecessor Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Mr. Shekhar reviewed the situation with senior Punjab officials, including Mr. Verma, here Tuesday.

More than 3,000 estimated killed so far this year in Punjab has been the largest number since the Khalistan campaign flared up in 1983 in the rich farming state.

Bus Passengers, 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK2311070890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, 14 bus passengers and six hardcore terrorists have been killed in three separate incidents since last evening. According to the state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, terrorists stopped three Chandigarh Transport Undertaking buses near Village Padol in Nilampur area of Rupar District at about 7 pm yesterday. After transferring the bus passengers into two buses, the terrorists took them to a nearby brick kiln and shot 13 of them at close range. Senior police officials with reinforcement immediately rushed to the spot and have since launched a massive manhunt for the culprits.

In another incident, three tractor-borne terrorists stopped an Amritsar-Moga bus near village Leri in Maku area of Ferozepore District and shot dead a male passenger and injured a woman.

A police patrolling party, hearing the shots, immediately rushed to the spot of the crime and chased the culprits. All three terrorists were killed in the encounter which occurred near Village Jagewa in the same area. Three AK-47 rifles and a large quantity of ammunition was recovered from the killed terrorists.

In another encounter, three terrorists were killed and two policemen seriously injured near Nurpur Bhammana in Hoshiarpur District last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the killed terrorists.

Iran

Irish Foreign Minister Makes Three-Day Visit

Arrives in Tehran 22 Nov

LD2211123890 Tehran IRNA in English 0524 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins arrived here Thursday [22 November] morning on a 3-day official visit to discuss issues of mutual interest between the two countries.

He was received at Tehran's international airport by Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Vaezi.

Collins is to hold talks with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari and Minister of Economics and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh.

Meets With Velayati; Comments

NC2211195290 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov 22 (AFP)—Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins met here Thursday [22 November] with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati and both men said political pressure against Iraq must be kept up.

"We both shared the view that the political pressure on Iraq must be maintained and strengthened," Mr. Collins told Agence France-Presse.

He was referring to the international embargo imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait on August 2.

Mr. Collins arrived Thursday—on the first visit by a European foreign minister since 1989—for talks with officials on the Gulf crisis and bilateral ties, Tehran Radio reported.

The European Economic Community banned senior government representatives from travelling to Iran following the February 1989 death decree pronounced against British author Salman Rushdie by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni over charges that his novel, The Satanic Verses, was blasphemous to Islam.

The ban was lifted in October.

According to the official IRNA news agency, Mr. Velayati reiterated Iran's position that "Gulf security must be assured only by countries of the region."

Iran has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but also criticized the U.S.-led deployment of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia, which is home to Islam's two holiest sites.

Mr. Collins and Mr. Velayati also discussed the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon and the Irish minister is thought to have come to Iran to thank officials for helping in the release August 24 of British-Irish hostage Brian Keenan.

Mr. Collins said Mr. Velayati was totally opposed to hostage taking.

"Iran has hostages. We are very much aware of their concern. We must always assume that they are alive until it's proven without any doubt that they are dead," Mr. Collins said, adding that Irish officials had received messages about Mr. Keenan's death which proved to be false.

The leader of Iran's anti-Western hardliners, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, has made the release of three British hostages in Lebanon conditional on the return of four Iranians kidnapped in 1982.

Mr. Collins said Ireland would help Iran "as much as we can," and praised the "positive role that Iran played" in freeing Mr. Keenan.

He underlined the commercial importance of his visit during which Iran and Ireland will sign a memorandum of understanding to activate the first Tehran-Dublin economic commission, in a bid to expand ties.

Mr. Collins, who is spending three days in Iran, is to meet with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saturday [24 November] as well as other government officials to discuss the Gulf crisis.

He said he wanted to convey Dublin's appreciation to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani "for the very important role that Iran is playing in the Gulf crisis. Our efforts would not succeed without the support of Iran in this matter."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Italian Envoy

LD2111165190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Mr. Bottai, special envoy of Italy's prime minister.

At this meeting, Mr. Bottai submitted to the president of our country the written message of Italian prime minister and rotating head of the European Common Market [ECM] concerning bilateral relations, improvement of relations between the ECM and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Persian Gulf crisis, the ECM's outlook on the future of the Persian Gulf crisis, and the awareness of the Islamic Republic of Iran's viewpoints on the crisis in the region.

At this meeting, Mr. Bottai, while conveying the warm greetings of the prime minister and government of Italy said: We are aware of the importance of the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region, bearing in mind especially the current crisis in the Persian Gulf, and we believe that in this arena, the Islamic Republic of Iran holds a key position and fundamental role due to obvious geographical reasons. He also expressed a desire for increased relations between the two countries and the deepening of these relations in the fields of expanding economic and political cooperation, as well as cooperation in other dimensions of interest to Iran and Italy. He said: In fulfilling these dimensions, we would like to assist in relations between the ECM and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Then, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while thanking the envoy for the amicable message and warm greetings of Mr. Andreotti, prime minister of Italy, and returning the greetings, said: The grounds for cooperation between the two countries are greater than exist at present. While emphasizing the preservation of stability in the Persian Gulf region, he said: Exchanges of opinion and joint cooperation for the preservation of this stability have always been and continue to be the object of our attention, and we prefer that the region's problems be solved by the countries of the region themselves.

Further on Visit by Yemeni Foreign Minister

Meets With President

LD2111135190 Tehran IRNA in English 1253 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, INA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday [21 November] expressed concern over the future of the region and underlined the necessity for withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and non-interference of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf crisis. The president made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Yemeni foreign minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani who submitted him a written message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

"We should not allow it to be registered in the history that the U.S. quelled a sedition through its military buildup in the region while regional states failed to do it themselves," noted President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He stressed that the psychological effect of this U.S. action would be far beyond its material loss for the regional nations.

The president also welcomed expansion of bilateral ties and mutual cooperation between the Muslim people of Iran and Yemen. The Yemeni official termed his talks in Tehran as "fruitful" and underscored the sensitive and important role Iran played in the current developments in the Persian Gulf region. Praising Iran's fundamental

stand in the crisis, al-Iryani said his country condemned the occupation of Kuwait and would not stand presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region.

He outlined the developments in his country following unification of the two Yemens and called for further expansion and deepening of Tehran-Sanaa relations.

Later in the day, the Yemeni foreign minister and his accompanying delegation met with Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi in which Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was also present.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi noted that in the same manner Iran opposed occupation of Kuwait it believed that presence of foreign forces in the region, led by the U.S., is an aggression in itself. This illegitimate presence, Karrubi stressed, would entail plunder of regional wealth and infringement of the rights of the regional people.

The Yemeni official arrived here Monday [19 November] to attend the first session of Tehran-Sanaa joint economic commission.

Signs Agreement, Departs

LD2111215290 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd- al-Karim al-Iryani left Tehran Wednesday [21 November] after a three day stay and signing a letter of understanding clarifying the framework of future relations between the two states.

The agreement, inked by al-Iryani and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, also foresees the economic commission to explore ways of promoting industrial, economic and agricultural cooperation between the two states.

After signing the letter of understanding, the Yemeni minister described it as a "factor that will help improve and expand bilateral relations."

Velayati said because the two countries lie in the same region they should cooperate jointly to settle regional problems. He also said since the region was facing a serious problem, Iran's talks with regional countries could play a key role in defusing the crisis.

During his three day stay, al-Iryani conferred with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Earlier today, the Yemeni minister had a meeting with oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh in which the two agreed that Iran supply Yemen with its needed crude at spot prices.

Libyan Industries Minister Shatwan Visits

Holds First Round of Talks

LD2111200190 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Visiting Libyan Minister of Industries Ahmad Fathi Shatwan held his 1st round of talks with Heavy Industries Minister Hadi Nejad-Hoseynian, on mutual cooperation in industrial and economic fields, today.

Nejad-Hoseynian said the economic relations between the two countries were not as desirable as their political ties, but noted that the two sides were determined to expand bilateral economic and commercial relations.

He said mutual economic relations based on the principle of free trade would be helpful for both states, and called for removal of the existing banking problems to pave the way for trade exchanges between the companies and peoples of the two countries.

Shatwan, who arrived here early Wednesday [21 November], termed Tehran-Tripoli political ties as "very strong" and proposed the opening of trade bureaux in each other's capitals.

Received by Habibi

LD2211193590 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Libyan Minister of Industries Ahmad Fathi Shatwan told First Vice President Hasan Habibi here Thursday [22 November] that regional states should strengthen their solidarity in the face of foreign military intervention in the region.

Shatwan said that that alien forces were in the Persian Gulf to confront Islam and the anti-imperialist countries of the region.

The Libyan minister, who arrived here yesterday, briefed Habibi on talks held with other Iranian officials, and hoped for further expansion of mutual ties.

Habibi said in response that Muslim states should marshal their resources against the illegal state of Israel and for realization of their Islamic ideals.

On the Persian Gulf crisis, he underlined the need for immediate withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

Habibi also wished success for the ongoing Iran-Libya joint economic commission.

Meets Foreign Minister

LD2211114790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] The Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Heavy Industry met Minister of Foreign

Affairs Velayati today at noon. Referring to the good political relations between the two countries—the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Libyan Jamahiriyah—he called for more expanded ties between the two countries. The Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Heavy Industry praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Our country's minister of foreign affairs emphasized the need to expand economic cooperation between Islamic Republic of Iran and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. On the Persian Gulf crisis Velayati stressed the need for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait as well as the rapid departure of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf. He said that Persian Gulf security must be provided by regional countries.

Meets With President

LD221174390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Libyan Industries Minister Mr. Fathi Shatwan this afternoon. During the meeting Mr. Shatwan conveyed the warm greetings of his country's leader and officials and submitted a report on the progress of his talks with Iranian officials. He said: We have special respect for the Islamic Republic of Iran which has always been evident in our stances.

During the meeting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Mr. al-Qahdhdhafi. Stressing the importance of the expansion of mutual ties, particularly in the economic and industrial fields, he said: Despite the friendship and many common aims between the two countries, our cooperation is less than our friendship.

About the Persian Gulf crisis the president stressed the importance of further efforts by Iran and Libya to resolve the crisis in the region.

Departs After Three-Day Visit

LD231114390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The secretary of the People's Committee of Industries of Libya [Ahmad Fathi Shatwan] left Tehran today [23 November] before noon at the end of a three-day visit to Tehran during which he met Iranian officials. He was seen off by Minister of Heavy Industries Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseyniyan.

In an interview with our reporter, he described the results of his visit to Tehran and his meetings as positive. Referring to the high level of political ties between the two countries, he said: We came to Iran to strengthen economic and industrial ties between our two countries. To date, these ties have not enjoyed much dynamism.

He added: In our talks with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it was decided to hold the third joint Iran-Libya meeting in Tripoli by 22 January.

Karrubi Says U.S. Against Islamic Revolution

LD2111232290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Islamic consultative Majlis, who is visiting Kordestan, Wednesday [21 November] night at the Sanandaj sports stadium, pointing to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf and the sophisticated problems which have evolved in the region said: These crises showed the world the self-sacrificing spirit of the people of Iran, and the free men [POW's], who demonstrated their resistance for eight years under the severest conditions to safeguard their ideals. That issue will remain in history forever.

Referring to the record of global arrogance's enmity toward the Islamic revolution, he added: The U.S. expedition to the Persian Gulf region has not taken place only to destroy Saddam Husayn and his war machine, but the aim of the expedition is also to deal blows at the Islamic revolution and to extinguish [it].

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, referring to the point that the enemies of our Islamic system still lie in wait, called on the people to present themselves extensively [on the scene] and to follow the honorable leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i.

He added: The dignity, victory, and independence of the country and our Islamic revolution requires the continuation of allegiance to the ideals of his eminence, the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise.

Mr. Karrubi also in a meeting with the Shiite and Sunni clergymen from Kordestan Province, emphasized the responsibility of Islamic scholars in the past and their duties in an Islamic government and warned against the old ploy of colonialism and arrogance which is to create discord among Shiites and Sunnis.

Radio Criticizes Bush Policy Regarding Gulf

LD2211140190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Excerpts] U.S. President George Bush, who has been in Saudi Arabia since 21 November, is trying to strengthen the united Western-Arab front against Iraq by his Middle East tour. He has met King Fahd and the exiled amir of Kuwait. Tomorrow he will go to Egypt. After conferring with Husni Mubarak, he will be on his way to Geneva for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the Persian Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

The U.S. Government has announced its intention to push through a UN Security Council resolution which will allow the use of force for compelling Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. So far, Washington has failed to secure international unanimity, especially among the Security Council members. At the CSCE summit in Paris, U.S. diplomats failed to obtain a pledge of explicit cooperation in this regard from other powerful Western governments.

French President Mitterrand has said that the UN Security Council may approve a resolution on the use of force within the next three weeks. Such observations, which match the Soviet viewpoint, cannot be considered a resounding success for George Bush, who is himself facing growing popular opposition in the United States regarding military action in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. President, in his first Middle Eastern tour, is trying to stress his determination to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and that foreign forces will continue to be deployed in the Persian Gulf for a long time. Keeping in mind the clear understanding of the dimensions and consequences of a military conflict, the idea is increasingly taking form in some political circles that the deployment of U.S. and Western forces in the area is not intended to wage war against Iraq. On the contrary, Washington is trying, by the mass deployment of forces and the use of political and economic pressure, to force Baghdad to withdraw. The success of this policy will take a long time and mean that foreign forces will continue to remain in the Persian Gulf to support Western interests. This is not something that the people of the area want. On the contrary, they consider the deployment of these forces and the Bush visit a step toward the trampling of their interests.

Iraq's military aggression against Kuwait and the resultant deployment of foreign forces in the area to confront it and to safeguard Western interests is in no way in the interests of this important and wealthy region of the world. Recent remarks by U.S. officials show that they basically have no regard for the interests of the people and countries of the region and are only seeking to safeguard their own interests at any cost.

Khamene'i Calls for Army of 20 Million

LD2211173390 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic Thursday [22 November] cautioned that Islam is locked in a continuous struggle with global arrogance and "so long as arrogance remains the danger exists."

"The public and officials should take this danger seriously, or else, we will be caught off guard," Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i told a group of Basij volunteer forces.

He termed the fronts and resistance cells in towns and cities, as "two major arenas of Basij activities," and called for practical steps for the formation of a 20-million strong army.

This is practically possible through absorption and organisation of the popular Basij forces, added the leader.

The Basij is bound to the fate of the Islamic Revolution, he said, and once it becomes ubiquitous, no power on earth will be able to inflict even a minor harm on the country and revolution.

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces called Basij "an important institution and a genuine revolutionary phenomenon," which should be supported and appreciated by the public and officials.

He also paid glowing tributes to the faith and self-sacrifices of the Basij forces for the defence of the Islamic state.

*Solution to Mideast Problems Rests With Moslems

91AS0228D Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saturday in a meeting with the secretary-general of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), Hamid al-Gabid, stated that the Iraq-Kuwait crisis is threatening and has caused divisions among Islamic countries, and that the OIC has the responsibility to intervene. Enumerating the problems of Moslems in various parts of the world, President Rafsanjani said the OIC should prove it defends the rights and aspirations of the Islamic world.

What President Rafsanjani said is very true. It is a fact that the Islamic world is embroiled in various crises and faces many different problems. Solutions to these and support for the rights of Moslems is only possible through unity among the ranks of the Moslems. Solving the problems of Moslems in Palestine, Afghanistan, India, Lebanon and Kashmir and showing support for them is the duty of all Islamic states in the world. The basic principle in addressing these problems and considering that Moslems share a common religion, is the reliance on Islamic aspirations.

The OIC, by avoiding ethnic and nationalistic discriminations, bringing closer together various Islamic sects and through sincere cooperation among Moslem countries of the world, can realise the slumbering powers that Moslems have and resolve their problems.

If this is actualized then such problems and crises can be easily answered. In the final analysis, all crises facing Moslems, ranging from the struggle against Israel to the recent Persian Gulf crisis, reflect their failure caused by the intervention of foreign powers and lack of unity among Moslems.

Actions by the international community within the framework of the United Nations decisions can play an important role in logically solving the current Persian Gulf crisis, and perhaps other problems in the Middle East region. But undoubtedly the only final solution rests in the efforts of all Moslem countries within the framework of an independent Islamic organization.

*Editorial on Desirable Persian Gulf Solution

91AS0228A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak al-Khalifa during his trip to Tehran last Wednesday siad the objective of his visit to Iran was to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation. He also said that cooperation of the reginal countries with the Islamic Republic of Iran is an important factor in solving issues and achieving strategic cooperation without the interference or presence of foreign forces.

Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Bahraini official's counterpart, also stressed on the necessity of greater cooperation among the regional countries for achieving a lasting peace and security in the region. He stressed that a practical plan should be drawn up for achieving regional security without the presence and interference of foreign forces.

The Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait made it clear that Iran has a very important role to play and there is need for cooperation among the Persian Gulf countries for preservation of security in the region. The regional countries have also realized that the Islamic Republic of Iran while sticking to its revolutionary and Islamic values and aspirations, at the same time respects international laws and welcomes peace and security and good relations particularly with its neighbors.

It is clear that the Persian Gulf crisis cannot be sloved by resorting to military force by the foreign forces. Such a conflict may have unpredictable and dangerous consequences for all. What is important for settling the crisis in a desirable manner is, on the one hand, serious implementation of the UN Security Council sanctions, and on the other hand independent cooperation among regional countries. This will not only solve the present crisis but will also guarantee that other crises do not occur in the region.

Since the international Moslem public opinion is not ready to accept a lengthy presence of foreign forces in the region, therefore there is no guarantee for regional security as long as a practical and independent unity is not created among the nations of the region (and especially with the Islamic Republic). Presence of alien forces in the region does not guarantee peace or that the recent Iraqi aggression against Kuwait would not be repeated.

It is hoped that through regional coordination and international cooperation in implementing the UN decisions, the current crisis would be settled without any military confrontation.

Cooperation Memorandum Signed With Brazil

LD2111145290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Brazil's minister of infrastructure, Ozires Silva, who has been in Tehran, left this morning after signing a memorandum of understanding. According to a report from the Central News Unit, in this memorandum of understanding the two sides reached agreement on expanding economic ties, technical cooperation, exploitation of production capacities in both countries—particularly in the technical and industrial fields—exchanges of experience in the gas and oil industries, and the transfer of technology and technical know-how by exchanging experts in various fields. The memorandum of understanding also studies the industrial possibilities and the existing production capacities which can meet the requirements of each side, and stresses the need for expanding commercial transaction between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Brazil, particularly in the sugar industries, building services, paper manufacturing, mines and metals, transportation, and agricultural equipment.

Before leaving Tehran today, Silva thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its positive cooperation in increasing Iran's export of crude oil to Brazil, and added that his country is ready to cooperate in implementing projects to build low-cost houses and in various international forums such as GATT, in view of the two countries' common interests.

Foreign Embassies Said Helping Drug Smugglers

LD2111194890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] As a result of the bravery and the complete coordination of the intelligence and security forces, one of the biggest drug-trafficking networks was smashed around Sirjan yesterday and eight members of the network were killed. Seven weapons and 80 million rials in cash were confiscated from the members of that drug-trafficking network who intended to move four tonnes of heroin. They were equipped with a number of very powerful short-wave radios.

Mr. Mokhtar Kalantari, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee and the secretary of the Anti-Narcotics Headquarters, midday today in a press conference announced the news and also, referring to the annihilation of an international network involved in the transportation of narcotics from the west of the country to Europe, he said: The agents of that network intended to transport three tonnes of narcotics to the European countries. They were arrested as the result of the vigilance of the Islamic Revolution Committee guards. They are currently being interrogated.

Referring to the point that a number of the gang members live in Pakistan and Turkey, he said: Large quantities of arms have been confiscated from that network.

At the said press conference, Mr. Kalantari said that in the antinarcotics campaign priority will be given respectively to preventing production, importation, distribution, and the consumption of narcotics in our country in any way. The import and distribution of drugs, meanwhile, have been halved within the past two years as a

result of the extent of the security forces' campaign and the execution of the smugglers.

Referring to the point that elements of a number of foreign embassies cooperate with the Iranian smugglers in the transportation of narcotics, he said: If the antinarcotics campaign continues with the existing severity, within the next year the campaign of the security forces will be confined to the setting up of obstacles against the transportation of narcotics to Europe.